AlphaVu.

MT MAILBAG: Twenty members of the House wrote to U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer urging attention to Buy America laws as Trump officials renegotiate NAFTA. Rep. Dan Lipinski (D-Ill.) spearheaded the letter.

THE AUTOBAHN:

- "A subway 'bucks,' injuring dozens and derailing a new MTA chairman's good-news day." POLITICO New York.

- "Rahm Emanuel, Elon Musk talk tunnel for O'Hare-downtown high-speed rail." The Chicago Tribune.

- "Maersk says global IT breakdown caused by cyber attack." Reuters.

- "Shhh, look, it's a lesser-spotted refrigerated Maersk container!" The Wall Street Journal.

- Former Congresswoman Janice Hahn releases statement on cyberattack on Maersk Shipping. LA County Supervisor.

- German regulator says Tesla's autopilot system may not be safe enough. POLITICO Europe.

- "Alaska salutes black soldiers' work on highway during WWII." The Associated Press.

THE COUNTDOWN: DOT appropriations run out in 95 days. The FAA reauthorization expires in 95 days. Highway and transit policy is up for renewal in 1,191 days.

** **A message from Airlines for America:** Modernizing our nation's air traffic control system and bringing it into the 21st century is one of our most important infrastructure priorities. Congress now has the opportunity to enhance America's world-leading safety record while reducing flight delays and cancellations. And we must reform our air traffic control system and secure our position as the global leader in aviation without increasing, or uncapping, the Airport Tax. This would further burden consumers with unnecessary levies. Flyers today spend $63 in taxes on a typical $300 airline ticket. Isn't that enough? We can't have a system in which individual airports raise taxes on passengers whenever they want by however much they want. Airports enjoy a variety of funding sources for improvement projects, including nearly $7 billion that is sitting dormant in the airport trust fund. To tell your Members of Congress that we need ATC Reform without a tax hike on passengers, visit www.stopairtaxnow.com. **

To view online:
http://www.politico.com/tipsheets/morning-transportation/2017/06/28/house-faa-bill-advances-221091

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To: Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
From: POLITICO
Sent: Tue 11/14/2017 10:47:16 PM
Subject: BREAKING NEWS: RNC cuts off Moore

The Republican National Committee is pulling out of a joint fundraising agreement it had with Alabama Senate candidate Roy Moore, according to a senior party official briefed on the decision. It is also canceling a field program it had set up ahead of the state's Dec. 12 special election.

Read more: https://www.politico.com/story/2017/11/14/rnc-cuts-off-moore-244904

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To: Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
From: EPA Press Office
Sent: Wed 6/7/2017 3:20:00 PM
Subject: WTAS: About The EPA'S Decision To Delay Implementation of the 2015 Ozone Standards

WHAT THEY ARE SAYING ...

About The EPA'S Decision To Delay Implementation of the 2015 Ozone Standards

Leaders Across The Country ...

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell applauded Administrator Pruitt's decision, calling the standards an attack on middle-class families from the Obama Administration. "I applaud Administrator Scott Pruitt for his decision to delay this Obama Administration issued regulation, which was finalized in October 2015. This regulation was yet another attack on the Middle Class by the Obama Administration and was forced through despite significant concern from communities across the country. Today's postponement will give states and municipalities relief in the interim while EPA continues to review NAAQS levels." (Press Release, 06/06/17)

West Virginia Senator Shelley Moore Capito said state and local employers had insufficient time to comply with these standards. "State and local governments and employers across the country have had insufficient time to comply with the latest revisions to the ozone standards. I commend Administrator Pruitt and his staff at the EPA for acknowledging this reality and acting today to delay existing standards." (Press Release, 06/06/17)

Arizona Senator Jeff Flake said the EPA is working with Arizonans to protect the environment, instead of the previous administration's one-size-fits-all approach. "It's great to see the EPA working with Arizonans for a change. Nowhere are the flaws of previous administration's one-size-fits-all approach to regulating ozone more evident than in Arizona, a desert state where naturally-occurring ozone makes it impossible to meet the new federal mandate. While today's move buys Arizona much-needed time, I remain committed to advancing a solution that will provide permanent relief from this egregious and unworkable rule." (Press Release, 06/06/17)

Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton praised Administrator Pruitt for pausing this costly and ineffective rule, which will help the economy in Texas. "I am grateful for the leadership of EPA Administrator Pruitt in courageously pausing the costly and ineffective Ozone Rule, and I'm hopeful that the one-year delay will provide time for the EPA to review the detrimental effects the Ozone Rule will have on the Texas economy." (Press Release, 06/06/17)

Recent News Coverage ...

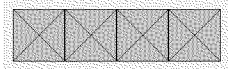
U.S. extends deadline for states to meet ozone pollution standard. "The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency said on Tuesday it was extending the deadline by one year for states to declare which areas do not meet the federal standard for ground-level ozone, a pollutant linked to several

serious health conditions." (Reuters, 06/06/17)

EPA's Pruitt delays Obama-era smog rules for a year. "The Environmental Protection Agency announced Tuesday that it is giving states another year to meet strict rules for smog-forming ozone emissions set by the Obama administration, citing states' confusion over regulatory requirements and the need for the EPA to review the regulations. … Pruitt also announced that he is establishing the Ozone Cooperative Compliance Task Force to develop the "additional flexibilities for states to comply with the ozone standard," the agency said. Congress gave EPA the authority to create the task force under the recently passed fiscal 2017 spending bill." (The Washington Examiner, 06/06/17)

Trump Delays One Of The Most Expensive EPA Regulations Ever. "The Trump administration announced Tuesday evening it would delay the implementation of a smog rule that's been called one of the costliest clean air regulations ever." (The Daily Caller, 06/07/17)

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To: Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
From: Anna Palmer and Jake Sherman
Sent: Wed 5/31/2017 5:06:10 PM
Subject: Playbook Power Briefing, presented by Morgan Stanley: BOEHNER weighs in on Trump dustup in private meeting -- TRUMP wants to pull out of climate deal -- NYT announces buyout program; end to public editor position

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Today's Playbook Power Briefing presented by Morgan Stanley
05/31/2017 01:00 PM EDT

By JAKE SHERMAN (sherman@politico.com; @JakeSherman), ANNA PALMER (anna@politico.com; @apalmerdc), DANIEL LIPPMAN (daniel@politico.com; @dlippman), ZACH MONTELLARO (zmontellaro@politico.com; @ZachMontellaro)

FIRST IN PLAYBOOK -- FORMER SPEAKER JOHN BOEHNER: TRUMP IS NOT A 'DISASTER' -- John Boehner got a lot of attention last week when he said the president has been a "complete disaster." The president himself wasn't too happy with Boehner, a long time friend, confidant and golf partner. Here is a video of Boehner addressing the dustup from this morning at the Council of Insurance Agents and Brokers Employee Leadership Forum in Colorado Springs. ***2-minute clip*** http://politi.co/2snhTvf

-- WHAT BOEHNER SAID: "Let me address this because some people have gotten carried away in their interpretation of what I said. Listen, Donald Trump is my friend. He was my supporter. I play golf with him and frankly I like the president. I voted for him. I want him and frankly I want the country to succeed. But I've seen some people write -- I think they've gotten a little carried away in their interpretation of what I said. I did not say that the president's policies were a disaster. I did not say that the president's agenda was a disaster. What I was referring to was the execution of the president's agenda and the president's policies. And frankly I think there have been a number of missteps, unforced errors that the president has made and I think the White House would agree that they've had their share of mistakes as the president learns to be the president."

Good Wednesday afternoon and happy last day of May. **NAMES BEING BANDIED ABOUT** for CBS's now open evening anchor job: Anderson Cooper, John Dickerson and Norah O'Donnell. In fact, most of our readers suggested Norah! But it's a wide-open situation.

CLIMATE DEAL TURMOIL -- "Trump expected to withdraw from Paris climate deal," by Andrew Restuccia and Josh Dawsey: "President Donald Trump is planning to pull the United States out of the Paris climate change agreement, a White House official said Wednesday morning - only to have Trump himself revive the suspense less than an hour later. The withdrawal would fulfill a Trump campaign promise but would be certain to infuriate America's allies across the globe. It would threaten to destabilize the most comprehensive pact ever negotiated to blunt the most devastating effects of climate change.

"Trump declined to make it official, at least not yet. 'I will be announcing my decision on the Paris Accord over the next few days. MAKE AMERICA GREAT AGAIN!' he tweeted Wednesday morning. Trump was slated to continue discussing the issue with senior advisers on Wednesday. Axios first reported the news that Trump would withdraw." http://politi.co/2snd6tR

-- JUST A THOUGHT ... -- A few sources in and around Trump world tend to think that we haven't heard the final word on pulling out of the Paris Accord. When we asked one senior administration official this morning whether Trump was pulling out of Paris, they told us: "No final decision yet". Remember when Trump was pulling out of NAFTA and then said he was open to a better deal?

-- BLOOMBERG DIGRESSES -- via Jennifer Dlouhy, Jen Jacobs and Margaret Talev: President Donald Trump hasn't yet decided whether to keep the U.S. in the landmark Paris agreement on climate change but is leaning toward exiting the accord, according to two people familiar with the matter.

"The administration is preparing for several different outcomes and is lining up experts to speak to the media when an announcement is made, according to another person familiar with the discussions who, like the others, requested anonymity ahead of a decision. Top administration officials are divided on what to do, with some, including Ivanka Trump and Secretary of State Rex Tillerson, urging Trump to stay in the deal. Others, including Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Scott Pruitt and White House Chief Strategist Steve Bannon, lead a faction that wants a U.S. exit.

"There is consensus in the administration that the terms of the Paris deal must change, and it's exploring whether that requires a full exit or a scaled-back U.S. commitment to cut emissions, according to one of the people. Trump is scheduled to meet with Tillerson at the White House on Wednesday, and the president said he'd declare an outcome soon." https://bloom.bg/2qB8509

****** **A message from Morgan Stanley:** Morgan Stanley's innovative financing is helping Unilever advance a commitment to sustainable growth. Capital creates change. Read the full story at morganstanley.com/unilever. CRC 1313323 10/15 ******

KUSHNER INC. -- "Kushner Co-Ownership Clouds Leasing of Brooklyn's Iconic Watchtower Building," by Fast Company's Ainsley Harris: "[A]fter months of design work, the Watchtower complex has opened for leasing, promoted as a world-class technology hub for a world-class tenant. The project includes 25-30 Columbia Heights, which once served as the Witnesses' headquarters, and three smaller adjoining buildings, all situated at the edge of Dumbo across from Brooklyn Bridge Park. When complete, the development will contain 635,000 square feet of office space and 35,000 square feet of retail. Kushner, LIVWRK, and CIM Group-the three firms behind the joint venture-have dubbed the project Panorama, for its striking views of the Brooklyn Bridge and the Manhattan skyline beyond. ...

"Kushner stepped down from his role as CEO of Kushner Companies (now simply 'Kushner') in January, prior to Trump's inauguration, and has agreed to divest himself of some assets. But he remains the beneficiary of more than 200 family-owned properties across the U.S., including 25-30 Columbia Heights. That arrangement puts the property's prospective tenants in an unusual situation. However indirectly, they will be paying rent to a man with an office in the West Wing. ... 'It creates avenues by which people can influence you or appear to influence you,' Larry Noble, general counsel at the nonpartisan Campaign Legal Center, says of Kushner's decision to retain many of his investments." http://bit.ly/2roxMnT

REPLACING THE FLEET -- "Pentagon Wants to Get Started on New Air Force Two and Doomsday Planes," by Defense One's Marcus Weisgerber: "Tucked inside the Trump administration's first federal budget request is $6 million to create a project office and start studies to determine what will replace the Air Force's C-32As, the modified Boeing 757s that generally fly the vice president, other top-ranking cabinet officials, and members of Congress. The plane is also occasionally used by the president to travel to airports whose smaller runways cannot handle the VC-25A, the Boeing 747 that usually bears the Air Force One callsign." http://bit.ly/2rodFXa

LABOR DISCONNECT? -- Boston Mayor **MARTY WALSH**, a longtime union leader whose name was floated for a potential Clinton administration appointment, dished to our Massachusetts Playbook colleague Lauren Dezenski on the apparent disconnect between the labor movement's national leadership and its base: "I think the labor movement -- I just think just like the Democratic party, the Republican party, and the labor movement, everyone is looking for their identity. And where their identity is. And to some degree I think there's a bit of a disconnect -- this is where I'm going to get in trouble -- there is a little bit of a disconnect between leadership in Washington and the rank and file, in the union stuff. And when I say the disconnect, from the bottom to the top, I think education has to happen to let people understand.

"'When I see people driving around with Make America Great Again bumper stickers and a union sticker next to it, I kinda chuckle because I'm thinking like Trump at this point hasn't done anything to take away people's rights and benefits. But if they look at Mike Pence and what he stands for on right to work ... they'll see that a lot of what he stands for is very contrary to those numbers that are on the back of their cars." ***Walsh also told Lauren he'd vote for Biden in 2020 if he ran*** http://politi.co/2roevmD

INTERESTING MARITAL DECISION -- "Honey, Is It Your Turn to Run for That Seat in Congress?: The Ashfords -- former Congressman, Brad Ashford, and his wife, Ann Ferlic Ashford, a health-care executive -- are debating which one of them should run for Congress; the children are undecided," by WSJ's Kristina Peterson: http://on.wsj.com/2rormFu

ICYMI -- TRUMP TWEETS -- @realDonaldTrump at **6:37 a.m.:** "So now it is reported that the Democrats, who have excoriated Carter Page about Russia, don't want him to

testify. He blows away their...." ... at **6:45 a.m.:** "...case against him & now wants to clear his name by showing 'the false or misleading testimony by James Comey, John Brennan...' Witch Hunt!" ... **at 7:14 a.m.:** "Kathy Griffin should be ashamed of herself. My children, especially my 11 year old son, Barron, are having a hard time with this. Sick!" ... at **9:05 a.m.:** "Hopefully Republican Senators, good people all, can quickly get together and pass a new (repeal & replace) HEALTHCARE bill. Add saved $'s." ... **at 9:08 a.m.:** "I will be announcing my decision on the Paris Accord over the next few days. MAKE AMERICA GREAT AGAIN!"

MEDIAWATCH -- THE NEW YORK TIMES has announced its buyout program, that'll focus on "reducing layers of editors" in the newsroom. Some key excerpts from the memo by Dean Baquet and Joe Kahn, from Poynter's Ben Mullin: "Our goal is to significantly shift the balance of editors to reporters at The Times, giving us more on-the-ground journalists developing original work than ever before. ... [W]e should remember that while we have built a large and growing digital business, we still have a newsroom built on the giant profit margins and specific needs of the print era. ...

"The buyout, which includes an enhanced cash payout, outplacement services and other benefits, is primarily focused on reducing layers of editors. But we will also accept buyout requests from reporters and others in the newsroom. Some desks -- Business Day, Metro and Styles among them -- are undergoing changes. In those departments there will be shifts in beats and emphasis. In some cases new department heads will have different expectations and different ideas about coverage. So some reporters no doubt will want to consider the buyout." ***The full memo*** http://bit.ly/2ro5sC7

-- "The New York Times Is Eliminating The Public Editor Role," by HuffPost's Michael Calderone http://bit.ly/2rohv2e

FIRST IN PLAYBOOK -- MARK SEIBEL is heading to BuzzFeed News to be its first national security editor, He is leaving McClatchy, where he was chief of correspondents. He previously directed two Pulitzer Prize-winning reporting projects at The Miami Herald and anchored McClatchy's coverage in the leadup to the Iraq war. The BuzzFeed News national security team is also looking to at least make at least three more hires to track the Russia investigations, the military and other national security issues. From BuzzFeed News' world editor Miriam Elder's memo to staff: "Mark will bring a cohesive vision to our national security coverage in this crazy time ... This will allow us to punch strongly on the biggest stories of the day, including the investigations into the current administration." He starts June 20. *Full memo* http://politi.co/2sn1HKm

-- Betsey Korona has been promoted to Senior Director of News at MSNBC. She has worked on MSNBC's dayside team for the last eight years.

TODAY'S BEYOND THE BELTWAY -- Illinois hits day 700 without a budget -- Trump in-laws buy a Florida apartment http://politi.co/2roMZW8

ATTENTION TRAVELERS -- "JetBlue will test facial recognition for boarding," by

CNN's Aaron Smith http://cnnmon.ie/2roxlKe

K STREET FILES -- "Anti-BAT coalition takes to the airwaves," by POLITICO Pro's Bernie Becker: "A coalition seeking to kill the controversial border adjustment provision in the House GOP tax reform blueprint is about to run an advertisement urging lawmakers to do just that, to make room for what it calls 'real tax reform.' Americans for Affordable Products, a collection of retailers and other business groups, is spending well into six figures on the spot," which started airing on Tuesday. ***More for Pros*** http://politico.pro/2roNOht ... ***The ad*** http://bit.ly/2roGbru

PLAYBOOK METRO SECTION -- @TasneemN (BuzzFeed news reporter Tasneem Nashrulla): "Bryan Moles of PA was arrested for possessing firearms without license at the Trump International Hotel in DC ... DC Police Chief says arrest of man with firearms at Trump International Hotel 'averted potential disaster in our nation's capital.' ... Moles has not yet been charged with making threats but police chief says he was 'very concerned by the circumstance' of coming armed to DC".

HAPPY 20th ANNIVERSARY to **Bob Cusack,** editor of The Hill and **Joyce Cusack**.

-- Happy anniversary as well to **Kelsey** and **Jay Lucas**, two former Hill flacks who are celebrating two years of marriage. Kelsey is now the founder of VisualSey and Jay is a data scientist at WPA Intelligence. ***Instapic*** http://bit.ly/2roct5W

****** **A message from Morgan Stanley:** Capital creates a fresh perspective. Can business contribute to a sustainable future? Absolutely. Morgan Stanley helped Unilever point the way forward raising £250 million ($415 million) with a first-of-its-kind green bond offering. The capital went toward projects that promote Unilever's vision of reducing waste, water use and greenhouse gases by 30% in existing factories compared with 2008 levels. In new factories funded by this green bond, Unilever is committed to cutting in half CO2 emissions, water use and waste. Now Unilever can have less impact on the planet.[1] Capital creates change. morganstanley.com/unilever

DISCLAIMER:
[1]Above statements based on Unilever's project selection criteria, communicated in the company's press release dated March 19, 2014. Exchange rate used to calculate "$415 million" was as published by Bloomberg on March 19, 2014, of 1.6644. For further details and information about Unilever's green bond issuance, please see Unilever's press release dated March 19, 2014. CRC 1297328 10/15 ******

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Subject: Nov. 09 -- EHS Federal Regulatory Alert



EHS Federal Regulatory Alert

November 09, 2017 - Number 216

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Summaries

ENDANGERED SPECIES
Oregon/Pinniped Removal Authority
ENDANGERED SPECIES

Notice of the National Marine Fisheries Service announces the receipt of an application from Oregon requesting authorization to intentionally take, by lethal methods, individually identifiable California sea lions in the Willamette River that are having a significant negative impact on the recovery of the threatened Upper Willamette River steelhead and Chinook salmon. NMFS has determined that the application provides sufficient evidence of the problem interaction to warrant establishing a Pinniped-Fishery Interaction Task Force. Comments are requested on factors to be considered by the task force in determining whether to approve or deny the application and on the impact of sea lion predation in the vicinity of Willamette Falls. Comments are due Jan. 8, 2018. Contact: Robert Anderson; NMFS, West Coast Region; 503-231-2226

82 FR 52038 (11/09/2017)

Regulatory Update

FOOD SAFETY
Assessment of Ill Worker Policies Study
FOOD SAFETY

Notice of the National Center for Environmental Health announces the submission of a new information collection request to the OMB for assessment of ill worker policies. The collection consists of a study by the Environmental Health Specialists Network program for identification and understanding of environmental factors associated with foodborne illness outbreaks and other food safety issues. The study will address assessment of restaurant manager and worker knowledge, attitudes, and practices concerning working while ill, and whether an educational intervention would result in enhancement of ill worker management procedures. Comments are due Dec. 11, 2017. Contact: Leroy Richardson; CDC, Office of Scientific Integrity; 404-639-7570; omb@cdc.gov

82 FR 52049 (11/09/2017)

Regulatory Update

FOOD SAFETY
Color Additive Petition/Synthetic Iron Oxide
FOOD SAFETY

Notice of the FDA announces the filing of a color additive petition by Colorcon Inc., of Harleysville, Pa., to expand the permitted uses of synthetic iron oxide as a color additive to include use in dietary supplement tablets and capsules with a proposed limit of 5 milligrams, calculated as elemental iron, per day for labeled dosages. The FDA has determined that neither an environmental assessment nor an environmental impact statement is required. Contact: Molly Harry; FDA, Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition; 240-402-1075. Citations: 21 CFR 73.200

82 FR 52037 (11/09/2017)

Regulatory Update

FOOD SAFETY
Infant Formula Recall Requirements
FOOD SAFETY

Notice of the FDA announces the submission of a continuing information collection request to the OMB concerning infant formula recall requirements. The collection addresses reporting and recordkeeping requirements that allow the agency to monitor the effectiveness and speed of recalls in order to protect babies from products that may be unsafe because of contamination, nutritional inadequacy, misbranding, or other adulteration. Comments are due Dec. 11, 2017. Contact: Ila Mizrachi; FDA, Office of Operations; 301-796-7726; PRAStaff@fda.hhs.gov. Citations: 21 CFR 107.230, 107.240, 107.250, 107.260, 107.280

82 FR 52055 (11/09/2017)

Regulatory Update

GENERAL ENVIRONMENT AND SAFETY
Blood Products Advisory Committee Meeting
GENERAL ENVIRONMENT AND SAFETY

Notice of the FDA announces a meeting of the Blood Products Advisory Committee to discuss bacterial risk control strategies for blood collection establishments and transfusion services. The committee also will meet as a device classification panel to consider classification of human leukocyte antigen, human platelet antigen, and human neutrophil antigen devices. In addition, the agenda includes discussion regarding Zika virus transmission prevention strategies and an information session on the Transfusion Transmissible Infections Monitoring System. Finally, the agenda includes a presentation on an April 6, 2017, FDA workshop on emerging tick-borne diseases and blood safety. The meeting is scheduled for Nov. 30-Dec. 1, 2017, in Silver Spring, Md. Comments are due Nov. 22, 2017. Contact: Bryan Emery; FDA, Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research; 240-402-8054; bryan.emery@fda.hhs.gov

82 FR 52060 (11/09/2017)

Regulatory Update

GENERAL ENVIRONMENT AND SAFETY
Effect of Drugs on the Ability to Operate Motor Vehicles
GENERAL ENVIRONMENT AND SAFETY

Notice of the FDA announces the availability of a final guidance for industry concerning evaluation of drug effects on the ability to operate a motor vehicle. The document is intended to assist sponsors in the evaluation of the effects of psychoactive drugs on the ability to operate a motor vehicle. The guidance establishes a systematic process to identify drugs for which evaluation of effects on driving abilities may be needed and the types of studies that such an evaluation entails. Comments may be submitted at any time. Contact: Naomi Lowy; FDA, Center for Drug Evaluation and Research; 301-796-0692

82 FR 52052 (11/09/2017)

Regulatory Update

GENERAL ENVIRONMENT AND SAFETY
Environmental Impact Statements
GENERAL ENVIRONMENT AND SAFETY

Notice of the EPA announces the availability of environmental impact statements filed Oct. 30-Nov. 3, 2017. Contact: Kelly Knight; EPA, Office of Federal Activities; 202-564-7146; knight.kelly@epa.gov. Citations: 40 CFR 1506.9

82 FR 52043 (11/09/2017)

Regulatory Update

GENERAL ENVIRONMENT AND SAFETY
Labeling of Natural Rubber Latex Condoms
GENERAL ENVIRONMENT AND SAFETY

Notice announces the intention of the FDA to seek OMB approval for a continuing information collection request regarding the class II special controls guidance document for manufacturers and repackagers of male condoms made of natural rubber latex without spermicidal lubricant. The collection addresses labeling requirements to provide information for condom users, including the extent of protection provided by condoms against various types of sexually transmitted diseases. Comments are due Jan. 8, 2018. Contact: Amber Sanford; FDA, Office of Operations; 301-796-8867; PRAStaff@fda.hhs.gov. Citations: 21 CFR 884.5300

82 FR 52056 (11/09/2017)

Regulatory Update

GENERAL ENVIRONMENT AND SAFETY
Menu Labeling Guidelines
GENERAL ENVIRONMENT AND SAFETY

Notice of the FDA announces the availability of a draft supplemental guidance for industry regarding menu labeling. The guidance addresses concerns raised by stakeholders regarding a May 4, 2017, interim final rule (82 FR 20825) to implement nutrition labeling requirements for foods sold in covered establishments. The guidance includes expanded and new interpretations of policy; contains graphical depictions; and addresses calorie disclosure signage for self-service foods, reasonable basis and the criteria for considering the natural variation of foods, various methods for providing calorie disclosure information, compliance and enforcement, and criteria for distinguishing between menus and other information presented to the consumer. The agency also is withdrawing certain questions and answers in a May 5, 2016, guidance (81 FR 27067) concerning menu labeling requirements for restaurants and retail establishments selling away-from-home foods. Comments are due Jan. 8, 2018. Contact: Ashley Rulffes; FDA, Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition; 240-402-2371. Citations: 21 CFR 11, 101

82 FR 52036 (11/09/2017)

Regulatory Update

GENERAL ENVIRONMENT AND SAFETY
Texas/Lower Bois d'Arc Creek Reservoir
GENERAL ENVIRONMENT AND SAFETY

Notice of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers announces the availability of the final environmental impact statement for the Lower Bois d'Arc Creek Reservoir, in Fannin County, Texas. The project, proposed by the North Texas Municipal Water District, includes construction of a dam, raw water intake pump station and electrical substation, a buried pipeline, a new water treatment plant, and a terminal storage reservoir to provide up to 175,000 acre-feet/year of new water for member cities and customers in nine counties. Comments are due Dec. 9, 2017. Contact: Andrew Commer; USACE, Tulsa District Regulatory Office; 918-669-7400

82 FR 52042 (11/09/2017)

Regulatory Update

GENERAL ENVIRONMENT AND SAFETY
Tobacco Products Scientific Advisory Committee Meeting
GENERAL ENVIRONMENT AND SAFETY

Notice of the FDA announces a meeting of the Tobacco Products Scientific Advisory Committee. The agenda includes discussion of modified risk tobacco production applications submitted by Philip Morris Products SA, of Neuchâtel, Switzerland, for IQOS system with Marlboro Heatsticks, IQOS system with Marlboro Smooth Menthol Heatsticks, and IQOS system with Marlboro Fresh Menthol Heatsticks. The meeting is scheduled for Jan. 24-25, 2018, in Silver Spring, Md. Comments are due Jan. 4, 2018. Contact: Caryn Cohen; FDA, Center for Tobacco Products; 877-287-1373; TPSAC@fda.hhs.gov

82 FR 52051 (11/09/2017)

Regulatory Update

GENERAL ENVIRONMENT AND SAFETY

Use of Drug Master Files for Shared System REMS Submissions
GENERAL ENVIRONMENT AND SAFETY

Notice of the FDA announces the availability of a draft guidance for industry regarding the use of drug master files for shared system risk evaluation and mitigation strategy (REMS) submissions. Shared system REMS are used in abbreviated new drug applications referencing an innovator drug for which the FDA has required that REMS include one or more elements to assure safe use. Shared system REMS also are used when multiple applicants coordinate the submission of identical documents to their respective applications. The FDA recommends that applicants that are part of a shared system REMS use a Type V drug master file for their REMS submissions to improve the efficiency of the submission and review process. Comments are due Jan. 8, 2018. Contact: Gita Toyserkani; FDA, Center for Drug Evaluation and Research; 301-796-1783, Gita.Toyserkani@fda.hhs.gov

82 FR 52058 (11/09/2017)

Regulatory Update

GENERAL ENVIRONMENT AND SAFETY
Virginia/Norfolk Harbor Navigation Improvements
GENERAL ENVIRONMENT AND SAFETY

Notice of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers announces the availability of a draft general reevaluation report and environmental assessment for navigation improvements to Norfolk Harbor in Hampton Roads, Va. The report is intended to identify whether the original authorized plan is still in the federal interest and to evaluate alternatives that have the potential to improve the current and future operational efficiency of commercial vessels currently using the harbor. The environmental assessment identifies the preferred alternative, which includes deepening of four channels, deepening an anchorage, and widening channel meeting areas. Comments are due Dec. 11, 2017. Contact: Kimberly Koelsch; USACE Norfolk District; 757-201-7837; kimberly.c.koelsch@usace.army.mil

82 FR 52041 (11/09/2017)

Regulatory Update

OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH
Cranes and Derricks in Construction/Operator Certification
OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH

Final rule of OSHA extends for one year, until Nov. 10, 2018, the enforcement date for crane operator certification and the existing employer assessment duty to ensure crane operator competency for construction work. The provisions were originally adopted in an Aug. 9, 2010, final rule (75 FR 47906), and the deadline for operator certification and existing employers duties was extended for an additional three years, until Nov. 10, 2017, in a Sept. 26, 2014, final rule (79 FR 57785). The rule extends the existing employer duty and enforcement date for an additional year to provide that covered operators are competent to operate the equipment safely. The rule is effective Nov. 9, 2017. Contact: Frank Meilinger; OSHA, Office of Communications; 202-693-1999; Meilinger.Francis2@dol.gov. Citations: 29 CFR 1926.1427(k)

82 FR 51986 (11/09/2017)

Regulatory Update

TOXIC SUBSTANCES
Child and Adult Blood Lead Surveillance
TOXIC SUBSTANCES

Notice of the National Center for Environmental Health announces the submission of a new information collection request to the OMB regarding the NCEH Childhood Blood Lead Surveillance Program and the National Institutes for Occupational Safety and Health Adult Blood Lead Epidemiology and Surveillance Program. The collection addresses the surveillance of blood lead over the human lifespan for children under 16 years and for adults 16 years and older to screen for and prevent exposure to lead and build state capacity for adult blood lead surveillance programs. Comments are due Dec. 11, 2017. Contact: Leroy Richardson; CDC, Office of Scientific Integrity; 404-639-7570; omb@cdc.gov

82 FR 52047 (11/09/2017)

Regulatory Update

TOXIC SUBSTANCES
Draft Report on Carcinogens Monograph on Antimony Trioxide
TOXIC SUBSTANCES

Notice of the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences announces a peer review meeting to discuss a National Toxicology Program draft report on carcinogens (RoC) monograph on antimony trioxide found in halogenated flame retardants in textiles, plastics, and rubber. The main exposures to antimony trioxide are from inhalation of airborne solid dust and for workers in facilities producing or using the chemical. The draft RoC includes a cancer hazard assessment the chemical. The draft RoC will be available Nov. 30, 2017. The meeting is scheduled for Jan. 24, 2018, via webcast. Comments are due Jan. 10, 2018. Contact: Canden Byrd; ICF; 919-293-1660; canden.byrd@icf.com

82 FR 52066 (11/09/2017)

Regulatory Update

TOXIC SUBSTANCES
National Toxicology Program Board of Scientific Counselors Meeting
TOXIC SUBSTANCES

Notice of the NIH announces a meeting of the National Toxicology Program (NTP) Board of Scientific Counselors. The agenda includes discussion of new approaches to evaluate the safety of chemicals and medical products, approaches to hazard characterization and risk assessment, updates on NTP studies of glyphosate, and discussion of a draft report on carcinogens monograph on haloacetic acids. The meeting is scheduled for Dec. 7-8, 2017, in Research Triangle Park, N.C., and via webcast. Comments are due Nov. 30, 2017. Contact: Mary Wolfe; NIH, National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences; 984-287-3209; wolfe@niehs.nih.gov

82 FR 52064 (11/09/2017)

Regulatory Update

WATER
Confidential Business Information Under CWA
WATER

Notice announces the intention of the EPA to transfer confidential business information collected from numerous industries under a new contract to Eastern Research Group, of Chantilly, Va., and its subcontractors. The transfer would allow the contractor to assist the Office of Water in the preparation of effluent guidelines and standards under the Clean Water Act and with its effluent guidelines planning and review activities for a variety of industries. Comments are due Nov. 17, 2017. Contact: Ahmar Siddiqui; EPA, Engineering and Analysis Division; 202-566-1044; siddiqui.ahmar@epa.gov

82 FR 52044 (11/09/2017)

Regulatory Update

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EHS Federal Regulatory Alert

To: Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
From: POLITICO Pro Energy Whiteboard
Sent: Wed 9/13/2017 11:13:49 PM
Subject: POLITICO Pro Florida: EPA backs Florida on stormwater permit 'flexibilty' following Irma

By Bruce Ritchie

09/13/2017 07:10 PM EDT

EPA is telling state officials they recognize the need to use "flexibility" provided in federal stormwater discharge permits for facilities affected by Hurricane Irma.

Florida regulations allow for temporary bypass of stormwater systems or unintentional noncompliance in emergency situations, Florida Department of Environmental Protection spokeswoman Dee Ann Miller said.

The state had relayed concerns to the EPA about those provisions relating to Hurricane Irma, said Miller, who added that those bypass provisions will allow ports and other facilities get back into operation as quickly as possible.

In a letter released today, EPA regional administrator Trey Glenn said the agency recognized the need under federal law for "potential flexibility" because of circumstances caused by Hurricane Irma that are "beyond the reasonable control" of permit holders.

"The EPA also recognizes there may be other unforeseen issues that arise as a result of this disaster and we stand ready to work together with our state partners to address these potential issues as they arise," Glenn wrote.

This story first appeared on POLITICO Pro Florida on Sept. 13, 2017.

To view online:
https://www.politicopro.com/energy/whiteboard/2017/09/politico-pro-florida-epa-backs-florida-on-stormwater-permit-flexibilty-following-irma-092891

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Yes, very	Somewhat	Neutral	Not really	Not at all

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To: Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
From: InsideEPA/climate
Sent: Tue 11/14/2017 10:37:21 PM
Subject: Today on Climate Beat

November 14, 2017

Today on Climate Beat . . .

. . . we went to Congress, where a group of Democratic lawmakers and their environmentalist allies continued to push back against the notion that regulatory rollbacks from the Trump administration will permanently end climate mitigation efforts in the United States.

Speaking of the U.N. climate talks, our daily news roundup looked at reports that advocates were none too happy with the Trump administration's pro-fossil side event at the United Nations climate talks, though it seems that the political officials' message is not getting to career U.S. diplomats.

In regulation news, the Natural Resources Defense Council is urging EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt to schedule more than one public hearing on his proposal to repeal the Obama-era Clean Power Plan rule to cut utility sector greenhouse gas emissions.

In court, the free-market group Competitive Enterprise Institute is filing a Freedom of Information Act suit to compel the State Department to produce documents related to the Paris climate agreement that the group hopes will bolster its claim that the agreement is an international treaty requiring Senate ratification.

And in infrastructure news, environmentalists and conservation groups are asking the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to withdraw its recent approvals of two Mid-Atlantic natural gas pipelines, seeking more robust climate change analysis and a detailed determination of need for both projects.

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To: Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
From: Approval Queue
Sent: Fri 5/26/2017 7:05:48 PM
Subject: Your request 'Trip from New York to Rome' was approved.

Your request 'Trip from New York to Rome' was approved.
Approved on 2017, May 26, Friday at 03:05 pm Eastern Time by: NICOLE SMOOT Comments:

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To: Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
From: POLITICO
Sent: Wed 6/7/2017 3:14:39 PM
Subject: BREAKING NEWS: Roger, Coats say they did not feel pressure to act inappropriately regarding Russia probe

Two of the nation's top intelligence officials said Wednesday they did not feel pressure to interfere with the FBI's ongoing Russia investigation amid reports that President Donald Trump had asked them to push back against the probe.

"In the three-plus years that I have been director of the national security agency, I have never been directed to do anything I believe to be illegal, immoral, unethical or inappropriate and to the best of my recollection during that same period of service I do not recall ever feeling pressured to do so," NSA Director Mike Rogers told the Senate Intelligence Committee.

Dan Coats, who oversees the nation's intelligence apparatus, echoed those comments. "I have never felt pressured to interfere or intervene in shaping intelligence in any way," he said.

Read more: http://www.politico.com/story/2017/06/07/roger-coats-say-they-did-not-feel-pressure-to-act-inappropriately-regarding-russia-probe-239244

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To: Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
From: Anna Palmer Jake Sherman Daniel Lippman
Sent: Sun 6/18/2017 3:01:46 PM
Subject: POLITICO Playbook, presented by POET: Happy Father's Day -- JAY SEKULOW: Trump is not under investigation -- Scalise update -- WHITE HOUSE week ahead -- KNOWING MARK CORALLO – SCHUMER's first big test -- WEEKEND READS – RODAY/MARRE wedding pool report

View online version | Add politicoplaybook@politico.com to your address book.

Today's POLITICO Playbook presented by POET
06/18/2017 10:57 AM EDT

By JAKE SHERMAN (sherman@politico.com; @JakeSherman), ANNA PALMER (anna@politico.com; @apalmerdc) and DANIEL LIPPMAN (daniel@politico.com; @dlippman)

Visit the online home of Playbook

Driving the Day

Good Sunday morning. HAPPY FATHER'S DAY! SPEAKER PAUL RYAN discusses what he's learning as a father as his kids approach their teenage years. http://bit.ly/2rJIO3F

FIRST IN PLAYBOOK -- Speaker Paul Ryan spent the weekend at the Homestead in Virginia for his annual "Team Ryan" summer outing. His message to K Streeters and donors: the Republican agenda is on track. The Wisconsin Republican laid out his preferred timeline for Obamacare repeal bill, saying that it will be done by mid-summer and tax reform will be completed by the end of the year. Ryan said that he expected the Senate to pass their health care bill before the July 4 recess and that would give House Republicans the rest of July to take action. Ryan said he has been talking to Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell daily. Ryan also was bullish on infrastructure, telling the group that a series of infrastructure bills will be passed by the end of the year. **SPOTTED**: Chris Russell, Bob Wood, Chris Giblin, David Tamasi, Richard Hunt, Ray Berman, Ed Kutler and Nicole Gustafson.

STATEMENTS FROM PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP FROM CAMP DAVID -- @realDonaldTrump at 6:38 a.m.: "The MAKE AMERICA GREAT AGAIN agenda is doing very well despite the distraction of the Witch Hunt. Many new jobs, high business enthusiasm,.." ... **at 6:46 a.m.:** "...massive regulation cuts, 36 new legislative bills signed, great new S.C.Justice, and Infrastructure, Healthcare and Tax Cuts in works!" ...**at 7:02 a.m.:** "The new Rasmussen Poll, one of the most accurate in the 2016 Election, just out with a Trump 50% Approval Rating.That's higher than O's #'s!"

-- @kylegriffin1: "For reference (spot the outlier): Gallup 38 ... Economist/YouGov 42 ...

Reuters/Ipsos 40 ... PPP 41 ... Quinnipiac 34 ... Rasmussen 50"

TAKE NOTE: Trump had just one surrogate on the Sunday shows: a member of his legal team. Not one Cabinet secretary or adviser talking about policy or politics.

SUNDAY BEST, PART I -- JAY SEKULOW tells **CHUCK TODD** on **NBC'S "MEET THE PRESS"** that the president isn't under investigation -- **TODD:** "The president tweeted earlier this week, 'I am being investigated for firing the F.B.I. director by the man who told me to fire the F.B.I. director. Witch hunt.' So let me start with this. When did the president become aware that he was officially under investigation by the special counsel?" **SEKULOW:** "The president is not under investigation by the special counsel. The tweet from the president was in response to the five anonymous sources that were purportedly leaking information to The Washington Post about a potential investigation of the president. But the president, as James Comey said in his testimony and as we know as of today, the president has not been and is not under investigation."

-- MARCO RUBIO to **JAKE TAPPER** on **CNN's "STATE OF THE UNION" -- TAPPER:** "Some of your Senate colleagues, as you know, are concerned that President Trump is preparing to fire Mueller or Mueller and Rosenstein. How would you react if he did?" **RUBIO:** "Well, first of all, that's not going to happen. I don't believe it's going to happen. And here's what I would say. The best thing that could happen for the president, and the country, is a full and credible investigation. I really, truly believe that. If we want to put all this behind us, let's find out what happened, let's put it out there, and let's not undermine the credibility of the investigation. And so my view on it is that's the best thing that could happen for the president and for the country, and I believe ultimately that's what will happen, irrespective of all the other stuff that's going on out there."

-- SEKULOW GETS TESTY under sharp questioning from Chris Wallace on "Fox News Sunday": "I do not appreciate you putting words in my mouth, when I've been crystal clear that the president is not and has not been under investigation."

SOME HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE PRESIDENT'S WEEK -- MONDAY: Trump has Panamanian President Juan Carlos Varela and his wife to the White House. He will participate in an American Technology Council roundtable at 5 p.m. **WEDNESDAY:** The president is going to Iowa. **THURSDAY:** The Congressional picnic.

THE BIG SUNDAY READ -- NYT, A1 -- "How Michael Flynn's Disdain for Limits Led to a Legal Quagmire," by Nick Confessore, Matt Rosenberg and Danny Hakim: "Mr. Flynn decided that the military's loss would be his gain: He would parlay his contacts, his disdain for conventional bureaucracy, and his intelligence career battling Al Qaeda into a lucrative business advising cybersecurity firms and other government contractors. Over the next two years he would sign on as a consultant to nearly two dozen companies, while carving out a niche as a sought-after author and speaker -- and ultimately becoming a top adviser to President Trump.

"'I've always had that entrepreneurial spirit,' Mr. Flynn said in an interview in October

2015. In the military, he added, 'I learned that following the way you're supposed to do things isn't always the way to accomplish a task.' But instead of lofting him into the upper ranks of Beltway bandits, where some other top soldiers have landed, his foray into consulting has become a legal and political quagmire, driven by the same disdain for boundaries that once propelled his rise in the military." http://nyti.ms/2sDrCkx

SCALISE UPDATE -- "Hospital says Scalise showing 'signs of improvement' after additional surgery," by Rebecca Morin: "[House] Majority Whip Steve Scalise is showing 'signs of improvement' and is 'speaking with his loved ones' following an additional surgery, according to an update provided by MedStar Washington Hospital Center on Saturday. The hospital also downgraded his condition from critical to serious.

"'Congressman Steve Scalise is in serious condition. He underwent another surgery today, but continues to show signs of improvement,' according to a statement from the hospital, courtesy of the Scalise family. 'He is more responsive, and is speaking with his loved ones. The Scalise family greatly appreciates the outpouring of thoughts and prayers.'" http://politi.co/2tBoHG5

-- TEAM SCALISE 's video from Thursday's Congressional baseball game http://bit.ly/2rsXeGe

FROM TYSON LOBBYIST MATT MIKA'S FAMILY: "We want to thank the team at George Washington University Hospital for their world-class care, and we continue to be grateful beyond words for the heroic actions of the U.S. Capitol Police this week. In addition, the positive thoughts, prayers and words of encouragement from across the nation have meant the world to Matt and to all of us.

"Matt has undergone additional surgery and his physicians have reported positive results. Matt will remain in the ICU through at least this weekend. He continues to communicate with us through notes, and even signed the game ball for the Congressional Baseball Game. Matt especially valued the professionalism of the officers of the Capitol Police, and would appreciate contributions to the Capitol Police Memorial Fund, one of the designated charities at Thursday night's ballgame.

"While we know there will be difficult and challenging days ahead for Matt and our family, the physicians and specialists at Matt's side expect a full recovery. This will be our final update pending Matt's discharge from the hospital. We again ask for your understanding and respect of our family's privacy."

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FOR YOUR RADAR -- "Navy stops search for 7 missing sailors after bodies found," by AP's Mari Yamaguchi in Yokosuka, Japan: "The search for seven U.S. Navy

sailors missing after their destroyer collided with a container ship off Japan was called off Sunday after several bodies were found in the ship's flooded compartments, including sleeping quarters. Vice Adm. Joseph Aucoin, the commander of the Navy's 7th Fleet, described the damage and flooding as extensive, including a big puncture under the waterline. The crew had to fight to keep the ship afloat, he said, and the ship's captain is lucky to have survived." http://apne.ws/2sGAXc0

BLAST FROM THE PAST -- KNOWING MARK CORALLO: "Meet the man managing Trump's biggest crisis yet," by Eliana Johnson, Josh Dawsey, and Josh Gerstein: "Veteran GOP operative Mark Corallo is known for accepting tough crisis-management cases, but even he wasn't daredevil enough to accept the job an embattled President Trump considered him for last month: White House communications director. Instead, Corallo chose to stay outside the building, becoming the top spokesman for Trump's personal lawyer Marc Kasowitz.

"In his new role, he finds himself handling the White House's defense against independent counsel Robert Mueller's probe into Russian interference in the presidential election, which has expanded to include inquiry into whether Trump himself tried to obstruct the investigation. Corallo had never met Trump or Kasowitz before taking the job but is now routinely in the West Wing several times a week, strategizing with a temperamental and media-obsessed president who sees himself as his own best spokesman.

"'I think I will be more help to the president on the outside than I would have been on the inside,' Corallo told POLITICO." ***With cameos from Karl Rove, David Ayres and Ed McFadden*** http://politi.co/2seOZjF

-- FLASHBACK: Corallo speaking to Isaac Dovere in May about Trump staff: "They're hostages." http://politi.co/2rKcOMS

SCHUMER'S FIRST BIG TEST -- "Democrats to step up attacks on GOP's Obamacare repeal effort," by Burgess Everett: "Democratic senators are planning to hold the Senate floor until at least midnight on Monday to thrash Senate Republicans for refusing to hold committee hearings on their health-care overhaul, according to several people familiar with the plan. The round of speeches is being organized by Sens. Patty Murray of Washington state and Brian Schatz of Hawaii.

"But on the more weighty question of whether to object to the GOP's committee hearings or refusing to allow routine business in the Senate regarding nomination votes or uncontroversial matters, the party has made no final decision. While the party's liberal wing is demanding that Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer of New York and his team shut the Senate down, Schumer has made no decision and often tries to forge consensus in his caucus before executing party strategy.

"Though several sources on the party's left believe Schumer may be open to the idea, Democratic leaders have been resistant to procedural obstruction thus far. They

believe blocking unrelated matters could shift the spotlight from Republicans' secretive process to Democratic obstruction. And it could set expectations high among the party's base that Democrats can stop the repeal, when in reality if Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) has the votes the party will be powerless to stop him." http://politi.co/2seOyWF

-- IT'S WORTH NOTING: Since assuming the top Senate leadership job after the 2016 election, Schumer has made it his leadership style to govern by consensus. Depending on how the Obamacare repeal effort plays out, this could be test for how he'll appease his frustrated left flank while not overplaying his hand.

THE JUICE ...

-- Community Catalyst Action Fund is launching a seven-figure TV and radio ad buy targeting Republican senators in Alaska, Maine, Nevada and West Virginia on Obamacare repeal. The TV ads, produced by GMMB, will run for the next two weeks and feature a mother whose son has chronic asthma and requires frequent trips to the doctor. The radio ad, also produced by GMMB, and digital ad component are part of the "Keep Care at Home" campaign, which is focused on Medicaid cuts, and will also include events in each state. ***The TV ads*** http://bit.ly/2tglz3j ... ***The radio ad*** http://bit.ly/2seKt4W

THE LATEST IN GEORGIA -- TOO CLOSE TO CALL: "Georgia special election hurtles toward nail-biting finish," by Steven Shepard: "As the most expensive House race in history rushes toward the finish line Tuesday, the latest public polls are unanimous: The Georgia special election between Democrat Jon Ossoff and Republican Karen Handel is too close to call. The race for the suburban Atlanta seat, closely watched for clues about the shape of the 2018 midterm elections, appears to be within a few percentage points - with perhaps the slightest edge to Ossoff, the 30-year-old Democrat seeking to wrest away a traditionally Republican seat in the first major election of Donald Trump's presidency. ... The current state of play: Of the six public polls conducted in June, Ossoff leads in five of them - and hits the 50-percent mark in each of the five - with the fifth showing a tie." http://politi.co/2rt57uY

-- NYT's ALEX BURNS and **JONATHAN MARTIN: "High-Stakes Referendum on Trump Takes Shape in a Georgia Special Election"** http://nyti.ms/2rEqr50

SUNDAY BEST, PART II -- JOHN DICKERSON speaks to **SEN. MARCO RUBIO (R-FLA.)** on **CBS'S FACE THE NATION -- DICKERSON:** "The president has called the investigations a witch hunt. What's your opinion of that?" **RUBIO:** "Well, I know he feels very strongly about it. My advice to the president is what I communicated publicly. The way I've tried to communicate to everyone on this issue. And that is this. It is in the best interest of the president and the country to have a full investigation. If I were the president, I would be welcoming this investigation. I would ask that it be thorough and completed expeditiously and be very cooperative with it. That's what ultimately I anticipate they will do. That's in the best interest of the president. I really believe that. I

think it's in the best interest of our country that we have a full-scale investigation that looks at everything so that we can move forward."

DICKERSON: "So regardless of what you may think about James Comey's firing as FBI director, you think it should be investigated?" **RUBIO:** "Well, I just think it's important to answer questions. Because otherwise, if people have any doubts, it undermines confidence in our system of government, in our elections, in our leaders. As I said, the best thing that can happen for the president and for America is that we have a full-scale investigation that is credible, that it reaches its conclusion one way or the other so that we can move on. But at the same time be knowledgeable. We have to know everything the Russians did and how they did it so that we can prevent this from happening in the future."

RUBIO talks with **CHUCK TODD** on **NBC's "MEET THE PRESS" -- TODD:** "The more the administration tries to soften the sanctions in the House, at any point, do you understand, if some people see that as circumstantial evidence in this probe?" **RUBIO** : "I could understand how some people would make that argument. I could also tell you though that I personally believe that at the core of the resistance is not the president. And I don't think the president himself has a problem with additional sanctions on Russia. I think the concern actually comes from the State Department and for the following reason: they argue that they are trying to get the Russians to be more cooperative on a number of fronts and that this could set us back. It's a legitimate argument, I've thought about it, I don't agree with it. And you saw the majority of my colleagues didn't agree with it this week."

POWER PLAYBOOKER - DAVID PETRAEUS to PBS NewsHour's Judy Woodruff on why Americans should support staying engaged in Afghanistan: "This is a generational struggle. This is not something that is going to be won in a few years. We're not going to take a hill, plant the flag and go home to a victory parade. We need to be there for the long haul but in a way that's sustainable. You know we've been in Korea for 65-plus years because there's an important national interest for that. We were in Europe for a very long period of time, still there of course, and actually with a renewed emphasis given Russia's aggressive actions." ***Video*** http://bit.ly/2rF21IN

Playbook Reads

PHOTO DU JOUR: President Donald Trump, first lady Melania Trump and their son Barron Trump, board Marine One on the South Lawn of the White House on June 17 en route to Camp David in Maryland. | Carolyn Kaster/AP Photo

THE BIG QUESTION AHEAD OF TRUMP'S TECH SUMMIT -- "CEOs Have Access to Trump, but Do They Have Clout?," by WSJ's Vanessa Fuhrmans and Peter Nicholas: "When tech industry executives gather at the White House Monday,

brainstorming ways to modernize government will be on the agenda. But on display will be President Donald Trump's evolving relationship with America's corporate chieftains. Some 300 business leaders have met with Mr. Trump since he took office promising the nation's top executives a direct line to the Oval Office and a chance to shape economic policy.

"The discussions have helped the president project an image of CEO-in-chief as he awaits a major legislative victory and have given CEOs a voice in initiatives like the administration's push to expand apprenticeship programs. But corporate leaders are learning about the limits of their clout. Hopes for an overhaul of the corporate-tax code this year are fading, some executives and corporate lobbyists say, as the White House and lawmakers struggle to reach consensus on a plan that could get through Congress. Mr. Trump's move to quit the Paris climate accord has been a stinging lesson for some that White House face time doesn't always translate into influence." http://on.wsj.com/2rEUp8V

WHAT K STREET IS READING -- "Republicans debating remedies for corporate tax avoidance," by Reuters' David Morgan: "President Donald Trump and Republican leaders in Congress will soon confront a complex challenge for tax reform: how to limit U.S. corporate tax avoidance schemes that take advantage of low tax rates in foreign countries. Congressional and administration staff have begun to examine options to address profit-shifting schemes that include so-called transfer pricing, earnings stripping and tax inversions. A decision on how to handle these in tax legislation could come before Congress leaves town for its one-week July 4 recess on June 29, officials and lobbyists said." http://reut.rs/2seHWaU

WAPO'S ABBY PHILLIP -- "Milwaukee Sheriff David Clarke rescinds acceptance of Homeland Security post": "'Late Friday, Milwaukee County Sheriff David Clarke Jr. formally notified Secretary of Homeland Security John F. Kelly that he had rescinded his acceptance of the agency's offer to join DHS as an assistant secretary,' said Craig Peterson, an adviser to Clarke. 'Sheriff Clarke is 100 percent committed to the success of President Trump and believes his skills could be better utilized to promote the president's agenda in a more aggressive role.'" http://wapo.st/2sDJaNA

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MORE ON MEGYN KELLY -- "Unedited Putin Interview Reveals A Missed Opportunity For Megyn Kelly and America," by Yashar Ali in HuffPost: "As Megyn

Kelly and NBC News face a firestorm over her interview with InfoWars' Alex Jones, unedited footage from her recent interview with Russian President Vladimir Putin shows a nervous Kelly who asked the authoritarian leader softball questions and failed to hold him accountable on key topics. Most troubling, Kelly devoted precious time in her short interview to a question that led one former CIA Russia analyst to say that it sounded as if Putin had written the question himself.

"In the full, unedited discussion, obtained by HuffPost, Kelly repeatedly fails to interrupt the Russian president while he rambles in his responses. She also asks Putin questions he can easily dispute. The last question Kelly asked Putin, which was not aired, was startling in its pandering. 'We have been here in St. Petersburg for about a week now. And virtually every person we have met on the street says what they respect about you is they feel that you have returned dignity to Russia, that you've returned Russia to a place of respect. You've been in the leadership of this country for 17 years now. Has it taken any sort of personal toll on you?'" http://bit.ly/2rsxPwo

MEDIAWATCH -- "The Danger of Ignoring Alex Jones," by Charles J. Skyes in the NYT: "When Mr. Jones was merely a marginal figure on the paranoid right, the case could plausibly be made that he was better left in obscurity. But now that, at least according to Mr. Jones, the president of the United States has praised him and thanked him for the role he played in his election victory, it's too late to make that argument. We can't keep ignoring the fringe. We have to expose it." http://nyti.ms/2rsZ61q ... ***Charlie Sykes is an MSNBC contributor***

TV TONIGHT -- MSNBC will air a special edition of "The Point with Ari Melber" at 5 p.m. for the 45th anniversary of the Watergate break in. The show features Tom Brokaw, Dick Cavett, former Watergate special prosecutors and never-before-seen documents from the Justice Department's Watergate Special Prosecution Force.

BONUS GREAT WEEKEND READS, curated by Daniel Lippman:

--"Young Men Are Playing Video Games Instead of Getting Jobs. That's OK. (For Now)," by Peter Suderman in Reason in the July 2017: "A military shooter might offer a simulation of being a crack special forces soldier. A racing game might simulate learning to handle a performance sports car. It's a simulation of being an expert. It's a way to fulfil a fantasy. That fantasy is one of work, purpose, and social and professional success." http://bit.ly/2twpXdC

--"Can Democrats Fix the Party?" by Rolling Stone's Tim Dickinson: "Trump's victory exposed the party establishment as utterly broken - now Dems hope to rebuild in time for a 2018 comeback." http://rol.st/2rAh2eF

--"What Makes a Glass House the Ideal Home for a Communist Gynecologist," by Cody Delistraty in JStor: "The windows in the waiting area are high, allowing light to enter, but also arranged so that infertile women waiting for the doctor weren't forced to see the Dalsace children playing in the backyard." http://bit.ly/2syDZhU

--**"The Ideal Iceland May Only Exist in Your Mind,"** by Taffy Brodesser-Akner in Afar magazine: "But you can, and should, still go in search of it." http://bit.ly/2tBnmzi

--**"Vatican tailors, cobblers try to adapt to Francis's 'papal athleisure,'"** by Claire Giangravè in Cruxnow: "Pope Francis's emphasis on simplicity and frugality is a hit all around the world, but it's produced just a bit of backlash among fashion-conscious Italians, including an exclusive club of tailors and shoemakers who outfit pontiffs -- some of whom are a little nostalgic for the days when being pope also meant dressing to the nines." http://bit.ly/2sBCccz

--**"The Fake Hermit,"** by Natalia Portinari in piaui: "Thomas [Pynchon] was very thin and very handsome, like a Romeo kind of guy. He was like an Italian lover, very, very sexy. He wasn't interested in money. He had a very dry sense of humor, so that's why we got along so well. He never hurt my feelings. He tried to be a hippie, but it wasn't easy for him. He was a hard worker." http://bit.ly/2roGnnU

--**"What Duck Sex Reveals about Human Nature,"** by Johann Grolle in Der Spiegel: "Copulation in most birds is achieved by a cloacal kiss, just an apposition of orifices. This is the essential reason why birds are so beautiful. Since they have the freedom of choice, females exhibit aesthetic preferences. And, as a result of these preferences, males developed amazingly elaborate ornaments." http://bit.ly/2sC9W9A

--**"How the U.S. Triggered a Massacre in Mexico,"** by ProPublica's Ginger Thompson, co-published in NatGeo: "There's no missing the signs that something unspeakable happened. Entire blocks lie in ruins. In March 2011 gunmen from the Zetas cartel swept through like a flash flood, demolishing homes and businesses and kidnapping and killing dozens, possibly hundreds, of men, women and children. The destruction and disappearances went on in fits and starts for weeks." http://bit.ly/2sHUo43

--**"If Israel were smart,"** by Sara Roy on Gaza in the London Review of Books: "[A]lmost half the labour force [do not] any means to earn a living. Unemployment - especially youth unemployment - is the defining feature of life. It now hovers around 42 per cent (it has been higher), but for young people (between the ages of 15 and 29) it stands at 60 per cent. Everyone is consumed by the need to find a job or some way of earning money. 'Salaries control people's minds,' one resident said." http://bit.ly/2roQAR5

--**"Philip Roth's Newark,"** by Steven Malanga in City Journal: "The city at its peak and in its decline are the novelist's two greatest characters." http://bit.ly/2sa9tu0 (h/t ALDaily.com)

--**"'A reckoning for our species': the philosopher prophet of the Anthropocene,"** by Alex Blasdel in The Guardian: "Timothy Morton wants humanity to give up some of its core beliefs, from the fantasy that we can control the planet to the notion that we are

'above' other beings. His ideas might sound weird, but they're catching on." http://bit.ly/2rF51QB (h/t Longform.org)

--"What It Would Really Take To Sink A Modern Aircraft Carrier," by Robert Farley in Jalopnik: "Even a supersonic cruise missile can take twenty minutes to reach its target area at maximum range, and a carrier maneuvering at high speed can move ten miles in the same period of time. A massive aircraft carrier can move surprisingly fast for something weighing over 100,000 tons, with a top speed of more than 30 knots, or about 35 miles an hour, which is what you get when you go for nuclear power." http://bit.ly/2roV3Dy

--"After Oranges," by Wyatt Williams in Oxford American, discussing "Oranges," by John McPhee: "Fifty years later, Oranges reads as an agile survey of world history, a vivid period piece of changing American foodways, and an early classic by a master just beginning to find his form ... Today, no one is quite sure if Florida's oranges will survive" http://bit.ly/2tbvwPw (h/t TheBrowser.com)

Playbookers

WEEKEND WEDDINGS - Zack Roday, press secretary for Team Ryan, and **Alleigh Marre,** who does press for HHS, got married on Saturday with the ceremony and reception at Rust Manor House in Leesburg, Virginia. The bride came down the aisle to "At Last," and the wedding was officiated by Zack's childhood friend and Best Man Ben Horwitz. The couple met on Gov. Scott Walker's campaign in Wisconsin. ***Pics*** http://bit.ly/2sHijAK ... http://bit.ly/2rEL5Cb ... http://bit.ly/2sE16r1

--**SPOTTED:** Gov. Scott and Tonette Walker, Matt Gorman and Annie Clark, Jesse Hunt and Kim Kaiser, Ian and Elsie Prior, Chris and Andrea Grant, Jake Kastan, Kevin Seifert, Betsy Ankney, Eli Miller, Jason Heath, Alexandra Clark and Scott Dillie, Bryant Avondoglio and Ellie Krust.

--"Cathryn Clüver, Tom Ashbrook" - N.Y. Times: "The bride, 41, is the founding executive director of the Future of Diplomacy Project at the Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs at the Harvard Kennedy School. She graduated from Brown and received a master's in European studies from the London School of Economics and a master's in public administration from the Harvard Kennedy School. ... The groom, 61, is the host of the NPR talk show 'On Point,' a daily program produced at WBUR in Boston. He graduated from Yale. He is the author of 'The Leap,' which chronicles his time as an internet entrepreneur, after a career as a journalist." *With pic* http://nyti.ms/2soxxYq

- "Stephanie Sy, David Ariosto": "Ms. Sy, 40, is a New York-based special on-air news correspondent for PBS and the host of Carnegie Council's 'Ethics Matter' interview series, a public affairs program that is shown periodically on PBS. She graduated from

the University of Pennsylvania. ... On June 26, Mr. Ariosto, 36, will begin working as a supervising producer of 'All Things Considered,' the NPR news program. He graduated from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, and received a master's degree in public policy from George Mason University. ... The couple met in June 2015, at Al Jazeera America, where the bride was a news anchor and the groom an on-air reporter." ***With pic*** http://nyti.ms/2sMcBgR

--"Sara Randazzo, Christopher Kirkham": "The bride, 31, is a legal reporter at The Wall Street Journal in Los Angeles. She graduated from the University of California, Los Angeles. ... The groom, 33, is also a reporter at The Journal in Los Angeles, covering the casino and hotel industries. He graduated from Northwestern, where he also received his master's degree in journalism. ... The couple were introduced through mutual friends in New York in November 2011." ***With pic*** http://nyti.ms/2seYvDG

SPOTTED at the going-away party last night (with a live band) in DC for Paul Wood and Ruth Sherlock, who is leaving in two weeks to become NPR's new Beirut correspondent (she was previously U.S. editor at The Telegraph): Susannah Cunningham, Merrit Kennedy, Susannah Wellford, Thomas Gibbons-Neff, Emily Lenzner, Suzanne Kianpour, John Hudson, Nihal Krishan, Vivek Jain, Matt Rosenberg, Karoun Demirjian, Diaa Hadid, Athena Jones, Karen Attiah.

BIRTHDAYS: Dina Powell ... WaPo's Fred Barbash ... Charlie Herman ... Joanne Lipman, chief content officer at Gannett and editor in chief of USA Today ... Niall Stanage, WH columnist at The Hill, is 43 ... David Wood (Mr. Beth Frerking), Pulitzer winner ... Kate Knudson ... Rep. Jerry McNerney (D-Calif.) is 66 ... Rep. Paul Tonko (D-NY) is 68 ... Nick Johnston, editor at Axios, is 4-0 (h/t Bill McQuillen) ... Megan Mitchell ... Bipartisan Senate alumni birthday: former Sen. Jay Rockefeller (D-WVa.) is 8-0 and former Sen. Mike Johanns (R-Neb.) is 67 ... David Drucker, senior political correspondent at Washington Examiner, is 46 ... Romney alum John Whitman, now press secretary for Texas Gov. Greg Abbott ... HFA alum John McCarthy, COS for Rep. Brendan Boyle (D-Penn.), (h/ts Fran Holuba, Anastasia Dellaccio and Ben Chang) ... Millie Harmon Meyers, public affairs at the U.S. Mission to the UN (h/t Ben) ... Geri M. Joseph is 94 ... Kenneth Lipper is 76 ... Blair Effron is 55 (h/ts Jewish Insider) ... DOT alum Ajashu Thomas ... Clare Bresnahan, executive director of She Should Run (h/t Jill Bader) ... Politico Europe's Blanca Renedo is 29 ... Kevin Landrigan, legendary New Hampshire political correspondent ... HFA and GSG alum Chris Allen ... Bob Scutari ...

... Will Kinzel, managing director of gov't affairs at Delta ... Jennifer Carignan ... Politico's Claire Okrongly and Shannon Rafferty ... LifeZette's Jim Stinson (h/t Jon Conradi) ... BuzzFeed's Mary Ann Georgantopoulos ... Bert Gomez, Univision's SVP of federal and state gov't relations... Tom Readmond ... Michael Van Der Galien ... former Hardballer Jeremy Bronson, now creator of "The Mayor," airing this fall on ABC ... former CNNer Meryl Conant Governski, now an associate at Boies, Schiller & Flexner LLP ... Zach Wilkes ... Jason Kello ... Daniel Epstein is 33 ... Levi Drake ... Max Stahl is 3-0 ... Lisa Barron ... AJ Goodman ... Ron Rosenblith ... Dick Mark ... Debbie Shore (h/ts Teresa Vilmain) ... country singer Blake Shelton is 41 (h/t Kurt Bardella) ... Sir Paul

McCartney is 75 ... Dizzy Reed (Guns N' Roses) is 54 (h/ts AP)

****** **A message from POET - one of the world's largest ethanol producers:** Led by scientists and engineers, POET is a biofuels company built from innovation. POET operates 30 biofuel facilities across eight states & America's first cellulosic biofuel plant. Across the country, we support 40,000 renewable energy jobs producing a cleaner fuel for millions of drivers, every day. Inside the Beltway, we advocate for pro-biofuel policies to remove barriers to consumer fuel choices with a Reid Vapor Pressure (RVP) fix, support a strong Renewable Fuel Standard, and open new markets for U.S. exports and trade. We are securing a cleaner future for all of us. We are POET and we're driving innovation, from the ground up. Learn more here. ******

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From: Anna Palmer Jake Sherman Daniel Lippman
Sent: Fri 6/30/2017 11:42:44 AM
Subject: POLITICO Playbook, presented by the Coalition for Affordable Prescription Drugs (CAPD): What JOE and MIKA said about POTUS -- TRUMP calls for repeal, and later replace -- WHO'S IN JARED's 'circle of trust' -- SPOTTED at Carol Lee's party at Trump hotel

View online version | Add politicoplaybook@politico.com to your address book.

Today's POLITICO Playbook presented by the Coalition for Affordable Prescription Drugs (CAPD)
06/30/2017 07:39 AM EDT

By JAKE SHERMAN (sherman@politico.com; @JakeSherman), ANNA PALMER (anna@politico.com; @apalmerdc) and DANIEL LIPPMAN (daniel@politico.com; @dlippman)

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Driving the Day

BULLETIN -- THE PRESIDENT SAYS HE'S SENDING "FEDERAL HELP" TO CHICAGO -- statement **at 6:48 a.m.**: "Crime and killings in Chicago have reached such epidemic proportions that I am sending in Federal help. 1714 shootings in Chicago this year!" ... **TRUMP** also said this on Twitter **at 6:37 a.m.** : "If Republican Senators are unable to pass what they are working on now, they should immediately REPEAL, and then REPLACE at a later date!"

-- THIS WAS THE GOP LEADERSHIP'S ORIGINAL PLAN! But now, many Republicans would be opposed to this. First, there are procedural issues. And second, ripping out the health care system without a replacement is not an option for most conservatives, who spent much of the winter calling for a simultaneous repeal and replace.

SCOOP - first posted on POLITICO Pro at 7:51 p.m. Thursday: **"Trump's trade plan sets up global clash over 'America First' strategy,"** by Andrew Restuccia and Nancy Cook: "In a bid to keep his campaign promise to crack down on unfair trade practices, President Donald Trump is weighing trade restrictions on steel imports from countries like China, according to two administration officials. ... The president's advisers are coalescing around a tailored approach that would target the steel imports of individual countries." http://politi.co/2s97FyZ

Good Friday morning and happy getaway day. JOE SCARBOROUGH and **MIKA BRZEZINSKI** appeared on "Morning Joe" at the top of the 7 a.m. hour to respond to the president's tweets about them. Before they came on, they played a clip of Ivanka decrying "viciousness."

-- MIKA: "I think it's been fascinating and frightening and really sad for our country." ... "I'm fine. My family brought me up really tough. This is absolutely nothing -- for me personally. But I am very concerned as to what this once again reveals about the president of the United States."

-- JOE: "We're ok, the country's not." ... "He, for some reason, takes things so much more personally with women. He's so much more vicious with women." ... "He attacks women because he fears women."

-- MIKA: "Big picture: my father just passed away. My mother had two heart attacks. My daughter just lost a friend. Those are the things I'm really worried about."

JOE said they got calls from ambassadors saying "we stand by you, we stand by Mika, we stand by the show, this is shocking, we don't even know how to respond to this as a country, we don't know how to deal with this guy."

-- WILLIE GEIST at the top of the 6 a.m. hour: "Mika's smart, she's strong, she makes people in power uncomfortable and she fears absolutely no one." ... **DONNY DEUTSCH** on the president, who Willie noted has known Deutsch for years: "He's a pig. He's a vulgar pig."

JOE and **MIKA'S WAPO OP-ED -- POSTED AT 5:10 A.M. -- "Donald Trump is not well" --** "President Trump launched personal attacks against us Thursday, but our concerns about his unmoored behavior go far beyond the personal. America's leaders and allies are asking themselves yet again whether this man is fit to be president. We have our doubts, but we are both certain that the man is not mentally equipped to continue watching our show, 'Morning Joe.'

"The president's unhealthy obsession with our show has been in the public record for months, and we are seldom surprised by his posting nasty tweets about us. During the campaign, the Republican nominee called Mika 'neurotic' and promised to attack us personally after the campaign ended. This year, top White House staff members warned that the National Enquirer was planning to publish a negative article about us unless we begged the president to have the story spiked. We ignored their desperate pleas.

"Mr. Trump claims that we asked to join him at Mar-a-Lago three nights in a row. That is false. He also claimed that he refused to see us. That is laughable.

"The president-elect invited us both to dinner on Dec. 30. Joe attended because Mika did not want to go. After listening to the president-elect talk about his foreign policy plans, Joe was asked by a disappointed Mr. Trump the next day if Mika could also visit Mar-a-Lago that night. She reluctantly agreed to go. After we arrived, the president-elect pulled us into his family's living quarters with his wife, Melania, where we had a pleasant conversation. We politely declined his repeated invitations to attend a New Year's Eve party, and we were back in our car within 15 minutes. Mr. Trump also claims that Mika

was 'bleeding badly from a face-lift.' That is also a lie.

-- OTHER HIGHLIGHTS: Mika didn't have a face-lift but had "a little skin under her chin tweaked, but this was hardly a state secret. Her mother suggested she do so, and all those around her were aware of this mundane fact." ... "During the height of the 2016 presidential campaign, Joe often listened to Trump staff members complain about their boss's erratic behavior, including a top campaign official who was as close to the Republican candidate as anyone." http://wapo.st/2stqLPvv

-- ANY GUESSES on who the campaign official "as close to the Republican candidate as anyone" is? When the president reads that, he won't be pleased with, well, the "campaign official ... as close to the Republican candidate as anyone." ***Take our anonymous Playbook poll and we'll share the results in Power Briefing later today:*** http://bit.ly/2tsxLAi

WELL, if the president punches back at people who hit at him, he'll probably bring out a bazooka for this one.

MAKE NO MISTAKE ... Trumpworld enjoys this war with the media. It satisfies his electoral base. It does absolutely nothing for Washington, which he needs to keep happy in order to pass legislation and govern, which is now his job.

-- @rickklein: "Kellyanne says she wants 'a full conversation about policy' now. @GMA"

THE MEDIA was covering health care policy obsessively until the president raised this issue. The conversation in the Capitol remains squarely focused on whether Republicans will be able to pass their repeal and replace bill.

THE DUSTUP is a battle of Acela corridor titans. Whatever Trump - or anyone - thinks about "Morning Joe," its relevance is unquestionable. It has a steady stream of elected officials and top-notch journalists every weekday - which is why Trump probably gets tweaked when it doesn't skew in his direction. Most of his barbs, as we've seen, are reserved for elite media, which he simultaneously blasts and courts.

BUT, BUT, BUT ... This feud isn't really registering outside of D.C. and New York.
AROUND THE COUNTRY -- MEH -- A number of newspapers send their front pages to Playbookland overnight. Only a few papers this morning displayed Trump's vulgar remarks.

WHAT AMERICA CARES ABOUT MORE THAN THIS ... THE STATE (Columbia, South Carolina): "He delivered a giraffe, saved a sea lion - and now, Riverbanks' Krantz is retiring" http://politi.co/2twFzSA ... **THE COLUMBUS DISPATCH:** "Water rate limit may halt Pickaway plan" http://politi.co/2u5NzqM ... **CHARLOTTE OBSERVER:** "ISIS investigations underway in N.C." http://politi.co/2uqRrlu ... **DES MOINES REGISTER:** "TORNADOES LEAVE THEIR MARK ON IOWA" http://politi.co/2stoqnV ... **CINCINNATI ENQUIRER:** "SOCCER'S MR. CLUTCH" http://politi.co/2sYmQhq

-- ARIZONA REPUBLIC teased the Trump/"Morning Joe" feud on the lower right-hand side of A1 with the headline, "Insults by Trump again grab attention" http://politi.co/2stxngT ... **LAS VEGAS REVIEW-JOURNAL**, recently purchased by Sheldon Adelson's family, featured the story prominently as a centerpiece. They screenshotted the tweets. **HEADLINE:** "Trump tweets draw fire from both sides ... Attacks on media critics lead to calls for civility" http://politi.co/2u5GCWu

MAGGIE HABERMAN and **GLENN THRUSH** wrote the lead story on A1 of the NYT with the headline: "TRUMP'S TAUNTS AIMED AT TV HOST PROMPT REBUKES ... GENDER-ORIENTED BARBS ... New Charges of Sexism, Even From Fellow Republicans" ***Story*** http://nyti.ms/2t7ZAM4 ... ***A1 PDF*** http://nyti.ms/2uqvJy7

N.Y. DAILY NEWS -- "HUMILIATION" http://nydn.us/2truCS1

IMPORTANT GRAPH FROM WAPO'S JENNA JOHNSON AND ABBY PHILLIPS: "[B]y going after a powerful female journalist's appearance and mental health, Trump not only distracted the country from his legislative agenda for a full news cycle, but also added yet another data point to the argument that he treats women differently from men." http://wapo.st/2sYb9Hq

-- TARA PALMERI: "White House council for women and girls goes dark under Trump : The administration is evaluating whether to keep the office, created under President Barack Obama to focus on gender equity." http://politi.co/2uqZkaK

PUTTING IT INTO CONTEXT -- "Trump, Mika Brzezinski and Joe Scarborough: A Roller-Coaster Relationship," by NYT's Liam Stack: http://nyti.ms/2sY0M6z

****** **A message from the Coalition for Affordable Prescription Drugs (CAPD):** A new study found that pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs) reduced spending in Medicare Part D by 58 percent in 2014, driving down costs for the government, taxpayers, and beneficiaries. The study forecasts that PBMs will save $1,800 per Medicare beneficiary, per year over the next ten years. Learn more at affordableprescriptiondrugs.org ******

TRUMP'S FRIDAY -- THE PRESIDENT is speaking to Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and then will have South Korean President Moon Jae-in at the White House for a meeting and a public statement. Trump and the first lady head to Bedminster, New Jersey, at 4 p.m.

HAPPENING NEXT WEEK -- TRUMP TO EUROPE -- "Angela Merkel Sets Collision Course With Trump Ahead of G-20," by NYT's Melissa Eddy in Berlin: "A combative Chancellor Angela Merkel set herself on a collision course with President Trump and his 'America first' agenda on Thursday, predicting 'very difficult' talks over climate change and trade when she hosts a summit meeting of 20 global leaders next week.

"Speaking before Parliament on a day when she also gathered European Union leaders in Berlin to form a common front, the German leader made no bones about the 'obvious' disagreement with the United States. 'Whoever believes the problems of this world can be solved by isolationism and protectionism is making a tremendous error,' Ms. Merkel said, in what will most likely be her final address before Parliament before closing out her third term in office." http://nyti.ms/2uq4tjc

-- "Long anticipated Trump-Putin meeting raises worries," by Michael Crowley: "President Donald Trump plans to sit down with Vladimir Putin next week, pursuing warmer relations with the Russian leader despite multiple investigations into his campaign's alleged ties to the Kremlin. The expected meeting in at the annual G-20 summit in Hamburg, confirmed Thursday by National Security Adviser H.R. McMaster, will be the first between Trump and Putin after more than a years of intense scrutiny of their relationship. The two men have spoken on the phone twice since Trump took office.

"It is unclear what messages Trump might deliver to Putin at a time of high tension between Washington and Moscow over Russia's interference in the 2016 election and its military presence in Ukraine and Syria. But many national security experts and Russia hawks inside the Trump administration are concerned that a president who has spoken for months about the prospect of a friendship with Putin might be too eager to please his strong-willed Russian counterpart." http://politi.co/2t6HR7M

THE HEALTH CARE CONUNDRUM -- "Dazed GOP bolts Washington in health care disarray," by Burgess Everett, Seung Min Kim and Sarah Karlin-Smith: "Senate Republicans skipped town on Thursday afternoon facing stiff internal opposition to their health care proposal and a July 4th recess where critics will pummel their effort to repeal Obamacare. Though the Senate whirred to life with deal-making between Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell and his members, senators were dazed by the up-and-down week and nowhere near a plan that could get 50 votes. The GOP is planning to write new language to be analyzed by Friday, but were far from reaching a broad agreement as senators had hoped.

"'In some ways, we're going around in circles but I think we're getting closer on some elements,' said Sen. Jeff Flake (R-Ariz.). 'This is complex.' And there's no guarantee that time back home will make things better. 'Our members seem to have too much information and are almost in mental lockdown,' said one Republican senator, who was perplexed at where the party goes from here. 'I can't imagine going home for 10 days is helpful.'" http://politi.co/2u2w8XZ

NEXT STEPS: "The best party leaders could hope for was to send a collection of new proposals to the Congressional Budget Office to analyze over the recess, which would likely include maintaining Obamacare's so-called net investment income tax that levels a surcharge on some high-income earners. The money would then be used to help low-income people afford health care."

-- TRUTH TALK: The longer the Senate bill is out there for review and the more senators hear from constituents that they don't like what's in the bill, the harder it is going to be to pass it.

TURN OF THE SCREW -- "GOP Operative Sought Clinton Emails From Hackers, Implied a Connection to Flynn," by WSJ's Shane Harris: "Before the 2016 presidential election, a longtime Republican opposition researcher mounted an independent campaign to obtain emails he believed were stolen from Hillary Clinton's private server, likely by Russian hackers. In conversations with members of his circle and with others he tried to recruit to help him, the GOP operative, Peter W. Smith, implied he was working with retired Lt. Gen. Mike Flynn, at the time a senior adviser to then-candidate Donald Trump. ...

"What role, if any, Mr. Flynn may have played in Mr. Smith's project is unclear. In an interview with The Wall Street Journal, Mr. Smith said he knew Mr. Flynn, but he never stated that Mr. Flynn was involved. Mr. Flynn didn't respond to requests for comment. A Trump campaign official said that Mr. Smith didn't work for the campaign, and that if Mr. Flynn coordinated with him in any way, it would have been in his capacity as a private individual. The White House declined to comment." http://on.wsj.com/2trcaZk

KNOWING JARED -- "Inside Jared Kushner's circle of trust," by Annie Karni: "In his former life as a Manhattan real estate developer and newspaper owner, Jared Kushner often lunched with Alan Patricof, a venture capitalist and Democratic fundraiser with a decades-long allegiance to the Clintons. Patricof, 81, fit the profile of a typical Kushner friend - a wealthy patrician New Yorker old enough to be his father, whom Kushner sought out for advice (see: Rupert Murdoch, Joel Klein and Ron Perelman). ...

"In his first six months in Washington, he's developed a new circle of advisers - one that's more political - while leaving some of his earlier confidants behind. He's discreet about who he calls upon for outside advice in his White House role. But some of the new additions to his cadre are people like former House Speaker Newt Gingrich, and Sen. Ted Cruz's former campaign manager, Jeff Roe, whose data-driven primary campaign caught his attention.

"The shift from his old life in New York to his current political reality is one Kushner wasn't necessarily prepared for when he moved his family to Washington to join his father-in-law's administration. 'This is not what he expected,' said one associate who speaks with him regularly. Most surprising to the new-to-politics senior adviser, according to multiple people with ties to Kushner, is the snakepit environment of the West Wing, and the backbiting from rival colleagues." ***With cameos by Ken Kurson, Jamie Gorelick, Sen. Bob Corker, Steve Schwarzman, Ron Dermer, Yousef Al Otaiba*** http://politi.co/2t7eIJG

COMING ATTRACTIONS -- "Centrist Republicans mobilize against draft GOP budget," by Rachael Bade and Sarah Ferris: "Centrist House Republicans are lining up to oppose a draft GOP budget curbing entitlement spending - and threatening to vote

against the plan if they don't get a bipartisan deal to increase spending caps. Tuesday Group co-chairman Charlie Dent (R-Pa.) is gathering signatures on a letter asking Speaker Paul Ryan (R-Wis.) to intervene in House Budget Chairwoman Diane Black's plan to curb $200 billion in mandatory spending in the GOP budget.

"The Tuesday Group letter - which sources say has about 20 signatories so far - warns that the Tennessee Republican's proposal is 'not practical' and 'could imperil tax reform,' according to a draft letter obtained by POLITICO. The letter also encourages GOP leaders to work with Democrats to reach a budget agreement setting higher spending levels for fiscal 2018 - something the letter suggests could be paired with a vote to raise the debt ceiling." http://politi.co/2t6bs1p

-- WHY THIS MATTERS: Congress needs to pass a budget to do tax reform. If they don't, tax reform is practically impossible. Conservatives are squeezing Paul Ryan from the right. And moderates are now pushing him from the middle.

FOR YOUR RADAR -- "U.S. plans to sell Taiwan about $1.42 billion in arms," by Reuters' David Brunnstrom and Arshad Mohammed: "The United States plans to sell Taiwan $1.42 billion in arms, the first such sale under the administration of Donald Trump and a move sure to anger China, whose help the president has been seeking to rein in North Korea. U.S. State Department spokeswoman Heather Nauert told reporters the administration had told Congress of the seven proposed sales on Thursday." http://reut.rs/2tshGKS

-- AP/BEIJING : "Beijing has strongly protested a U.S. plan to sell $1.4 billion worth of arms to Taiwan and demanded that the deal be canceled. Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Lu Kang on Friday said Washington should immediately stop the sale to avoid harming relations with Beijing. He said the deal would severely damage China's sovereignty and security interests and runs contrary to Washington's commitment to a 'one-China' policy." http://bit.ly/2tr1mdY

THE JUICE ...

-- KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON is being nominated as the next NATO ambassador. "Hutchison's nomination to be the U.S. representative to the military alliance comes amid scrutiny of the organization from Trump. The president demanded in May that NATO member nations spend more on defense, saying that it was unfair to American taxpayers if they don't meet commitments to do so." http://politi.co/2tqNoc4

-- @JimPressOffice (Rep. Jim Sensenbrenner's account): "A fun moment between friends: @SpeakerRyan gives the Dean his belated birthday gift on the Speaker's Balcony! #WI05" http://bit.ly/2sXvjRG

--"Here's the Audio of Donald Trump's Private RNC Fundraiser at His Own Hotel," by The Intercept's Ryan Grim and Lee Fang: http://bit.ly/2trpwF5

Playbook Reads

PHOTO DU JOUR: Former President Barack Obama greets a staffer during his visit to Prambanan Temple in Yogyakarta, Indonesia, on June 29. | N. Agung Nugroho/AP Photo

IN MIDTOWN WEST -- "CBS News President Tells Staff 'Evening News' Anchor Transition Didn't Go Smoothly, Hurt Morale," by Hollywood Reporter's Jeremy Barr: "In late May, it came out that after six years as anchor of the CBS Evening News, Scott Pelley would be vacating the chair. In an employee town hall Thursday morning, CBS News president David Rhodes was asked if he thinks the rocky transition has hurt company morale.

"'I absolutely do. And I'm concerned about it,' he said , according to someone who viewed the event. 'Transitions are difficult. We've had some very smooth ones while I've been here, and this one wasn't one of the smoothest. And I'm concerned about that. It didn't go the way that I wanted it to go.'" http://bit.ly/2sYqeJ1

-- THE QUESTION OF THE SUMMER: Who does CBS choose as its next evening news host?

SHOT -- "Administration Moves to Carry Out Partial Travel Ban," by NYT's Gardiner Harris, Mike Shear and Ron Nixon: "The Trump administration moved aggressively on Thursday to fulfill one of the president's most contentious campaign promises, banning entry into the United States by refugees from around the world and prohibiting most visitors from six predominantly Muslim countries. Freed by the Supreme Court to partly revive President Trump's travel ban, administration officials said the American border would be shut to those groups unless specific individuals can prove they have close family members living in the United States, or are coming to attend a university or accept a job offer.

"Officials said those exceptions would be defined narrowly. In a lengthy cable sent to embassies and consulates around the world, officials said that extended family connections would not be enough to evade the president's ban on entry. Parents, including in-laws, are considered 'close family,' but grandparents are not, for instance. Stepsiblings and half-siblings will be allowed, but not nieces or nephews. Late Thursday, the Trump administration added people who are engaged to be married - who originally were not considered to be close family members - to the list of sufficient connections." http://nyti.ms/2tsD3Mv

CHASER -- HAWAII, AGAIN -- "Hawaii challenges Trump stance on Supreme Court travel ban ruling," by Josh Gerstein: "The State of Hawaii is asking a federal judge to rule that the Trump administration's latest plan to carry out President Donald Trump's travel ban executive order defies the ruling the Supreme Court issued on the

subject just four days ago. In a new court filing, lawyers for the state and for a Hawaii Imam say guidance the Trump administration issued Thursday takes too narrow a view of what family relationships qualify to exempt a foreigner from the travel ban and would deny admission to refugees who should be exempt from the ban due to their connections to a U.S. refugee aid agency.

"'This Court should clarify as soon as possible that the Supreme Court meant what it said, and that foreign nationals that credibly claim connections with this country cannot be denied entry under the President's illegal Order,' Hawaii Attorney General Douglas Chin and private counsel Neal Katyal wrote in a motion filed Thursday with U.S. District Court Judge Derrick Watson." http://politi.co/2ssCKNa

WHAT CHRIS COX IS READING -- "Federal judge blocks new California gun control law requiring disposal of large-capacity magazines," by L.A. Times' Patrick McGreevy: "Many California firearm owners were given a reprieve Thursday from making a tough decision after a federal judge temporarily blocked a key provision of the state's gun control laws approved last year in the wake of the San Bernardino terrorist attack. At the request of attorneys for the National Rifle Assn., U.S. District Judge Roger T. Benitez issued a preliminary injunction blocking a law that requires Californians to dispose of large-capacity ammunition magazines by Saturday or face fines and possible jail time." http://lat.ms/2s7DEzn

****** **A message from the Coalition for Affordable Prescription Drugs (CAPD)**: A new study projects pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs) will save Medicare Part D $896 billion over ten years. PBMs drive savings for taxpayers and seniors by negotiating discounts from drug manufacturers; by encouraging the use of lower cost, clinically equivalent drugs; and by providing clinical programs that improve health outcomes. Learn more at affordableprescriptiondrugs.org ******

MICHAEL KRUSE in the July/Aug. issue of POLITICO Magazine, "How Gotham Gave Us Trump: Ever wonder how a lifelong urbanite can resent cities as much as Donald Trump does? First you have to understand '70s and '80s New York": "For Trump, as inhospitable as he found the city on the street, the parlors of high society were equally problematic-and he created a refuge. It was some 600 feet in the sky, where the faucets were gold, the baseboards were onyx and the paintings on the ceiling, he would claim, were comparable to the work of Michelangelo in the Sistine Chapel. At the top of Trump Tower, biographer Tim O'Brien told me, he could live 'at a remove from the city and its amazing bloodstream of ideas and people and culture'-'encased,' added fellow biographer Gwenda Blair, 'within this bubble of serenity and privilege.'" http://politi.co/2t7O8QT

FIRST PERSON -- "Present at the Destruction: How Rex Tillerson Is Wrecking the State Department: I worked in Foggy Bottom for 6 years. I've never seen anything like this," by Max Bergmann in POLITICO Magazine: "I recently returned to Foggy Bottom for the first time since January 20 to attend the departure of a former colleague and career midlevel official - something that had sadly become routine. ... As I made the

rounds and spoke with usually buttoned-up career officials, some who I knew well, some who I didn't, from a cross section of offices covering various regions and functions, no one held back. To a person, I heard that the State Department was in 'chaos,' 'a disaster,' 'terrible,' the leadership 'totally incompetent.' ...

"As I walked through the halls once stalked by diplomatic giants like Dean Acheson and James Baker, the deconstruction was literally visible. Furniture from now-closed offices crowded the hallways. Dropping in on one of my old offices, I expected to see a former colleague-a career senior foreign service officer-but was stunned to find out she had been abruptly forced into retirement and had departed the previous week. This office, once bustling, had just one person present, keeping on the lights. This is how diplomacy dies. Not with a bang, but with a whimper. With empty offices on a midweek afternoon." http://politi.co/2u5GOoD

VALLEY TALK -- "Twitter is looking for ways to let users flag fake news, offensive content," by WaPo's Elizabeth Dwoskin: "Twitter is exploring adding a feature that would let users flag tweets that contain misleading, false or harmful information, according to two people familiar with the company's projects. The feature, which is still in a prototype phase and may never be released, is part of the company's uphill battle against rampant abuse on its platform. It could look like a tiny tab appearing in a drop-down menu alongside tweets, according to the people." http://wapo.st/2snAnQU

MEDIAWATCH -- "Greta Van Susteren out at MSNBC after six months," by Hadas Gold: "MSNBC has parted ways with anchor Greta Van Susteren after just six months on air, as her show failed to live up to the network's ratings expectations. An MSNBC executive said the decision to remove the former Fox News host was purely for business reasons, based on ratings.

"'MSNBC and Greta Van Susteren have decided to part ways. Greta is a well-regarded television veteran and one of only a few broadcasters who can say they've hosted shows at all three major cable news networks. We are grateful to her and wish her the best,' MSNBC president Phil Griffin said in a memo to staff on Thursday afternoon. 'Please join me in wishing Greta well as she departs. We have enjoyed having her on our air and we're thankful to her and the show team.'" http://politi.co/2sW01L0

-- @oliverdarcy: "BuzzFeed is launching an opinion section. @tomgara will be editor. More details in this memo @BuzzFeedBen just sent out to staffers" http://bit.ly/2tssEAf

--JAKE TAPPER has won the Radio Television Digital News Association's 2017 John F. Hogan Distinguished Service Award, which "recognizes an individual's contributions to the journalism profession and freedom of the press." http://bit.ly/2twBSw2

Playbookers

SUNDAY SO FAR -- NBC's "Meet the Press": Sen. Tom Carper (D-Del.) ... Sen. Bill Cassidy (R-La.) ... Malcolm Gladwell. Panel: Hugh Hewitt, Kasie Hunt, Katty Kay, Eugene Robinson

--CBS' "Face the Nation": Sen. Mike Lee (R-Utah). Panel with four authors who've written books about presidents: Peter Baker, John Farrell, Lynne Olson and Sally Mott ... "City of Ghosts" director Matthew Heineman, and Syrian journalist Abdalaziz Alhamza. Political panel: Lanhee Chen, Michael Graham, Ezra Klein and Ruth Marcus

- ABC's "This Week": Ohio Gov. John Kasich

--"Fox News Sunday": John Roberts is subbing for Chris Wallace. Panel: Kim Strassel, Gerald Seib, Marie Harf, Charles Hurt

--CNN's "State of the Union": Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) ... Sen. Ron Johnson (R-Wis.). Panel: Jason Kander, Karine Jean-Pierre, Rep. Marsha Blackburn, Scott Jennings

--CNN's "Inside Politics" with John King: Julie Pace, Perry Bacon, Sara Murray, Phil Mattingly

SPOTTED IN ASPEN at a dinner last night hosted by David Bradley and Comcast: Chris Matthews, Andrea Mitchell, Dafna Linzer, Steve Clemons, Bob Cohn, Evan Osnos

SPOTTED last night at Carol Lee's WSJ going away party at the Trump hotel (she's heading to NBC News): Maureen Dowd, Sean Spicer, Ashley Parker, Philip Rucker, Jon Karl, Jeff Mason, WSJ D.C. bureau chief Paul Beckett, party organizer Julie Mason, Margaret Talev, Peter Nicholas, Julie Davis, Brianna Keilar, Eli Stokols and Josh Dawsey

SPOTTED yesterday at the Nats-Cubs game (the Cubs won 5-4): CLF President Corry Bliss, Team Ryan's Kevin Seifert and Jake Kastan, and Boehner alum Barry Jackson

SPOTTED last night at the National Press Club for a party celebrating Peter Baker's new book "Obama: The Call of History": Susan Glasser, Jeff Ballou, Christi Parsons, Carol Lee, Michael Shear, Betsy Fischer Martin and Jonathan Martin, Julie Hirschfeld Davis, Tony Blinken and Evan Ryan, Isaac Dovere, Steve Scully, Alexis Simendinger, Margaret Talev, Nicole Rabner, Heidi Crebo-Rediker, Diana Farrell, Jeff Bieber, Suzanne Struglinski, Lindsay Underwood, Lisa Matthews

OUT AND ABOUT IN NYC -- Fresh from addressing the European Parliament in Brussels (http://mikebloom.bg/2sjtICk), Mike Bloomberg last night hosted the official launch party for the newly redesigned Bloomberg Businessweek under editor Megan Murphy. ***Pic of Bloomberg, Murphy and John Micklethwait in front of a giant iPhone replica with a live touch screen featuring the magazine's new daily app***

http://bit.ly/2stcTFa

--SPOTTED: Reto Gregori, Kirsten Powers, Jim Aley, Howard Chua-Eoan, Yvette Vega, Hilary Rosen, Matt Winkler, Tammy Haddad, Juleanna Glover, Richard Haass, Stephanie Ruhle, Laura Zelenko, Iva Zoric, Jason Schechter, Ryan Williams (***pic of him with Bloomberg:*** http://bit.ly/2s8E7kX), Evelyn Farkas, Jed Sandberg, Al Mayers, Ashley Bahnken, Jason Kelly, Edmund Lee, Jacki Kelley, Keith Grossman, Chitra Wadhwani, Mike Dukmejian, Ty Trippet, Harry West, Robert Vargas, Stu Loeser, Sara Fischer, Christine Taylor, Andrew Benett, Mitchell Moss, Deirdre Quinn, King Chong, Donna Faircloth, Susan Mercandetti, Chris Taylor, Jon Banner, Patty Harris.

TRANSITIONS -- Karen Anderson is leaving Results for America to join the University of Chicago's Becker Friedman Institute for Research in Economics, where she will help UChicago economists with the communication and dissemination of their research.

HILLARY ALUMNI -- Oren Shur, the Clinton campaign's former director of paid media and a DGA alum, has joined SKDKnickerbocker as SVP and political director. http://politi.co/2tretMa

BIRTHWEEK (was yesterday): BerlinRosen's Rob Duffey ... **(was Wednesday):** Leslie Peterson

BIRTHDAY OF THE DAY: David Frum , senior editor at The Atlantic, is 57. He's celebrating "in the little village of Wellington, Ontario, where my family has been spending summers for almost three decades." How he thinks the Trump presidency is going: "Mostly sinister, sometimes ludicrous." Read his Playbook Plus Q&A: http://politi.co/2t7ROC7

BIRTHDAYS: IRS Commissioner John Koskinen is 77 ... Purple Strategies' Kyle Plotkin, former CoS to Bobby Jindal (hat tip: Bobby) ... Alina Selyukh Pickeral, technology reporter at NPR and host of the All Tech Considered blog ... Rep. Barbara Comstock (R-Va.) is 6-0 ... Brian Stewart, media relations director at MoveOn.org ... Paul Cheung, director of visual journalism at NBC News digital ... Creative Coalition CEO Robin Bronk (h/t Tammy Haddad) ... Luke Jackson, press secretary for Sen. Jon Tester in Montana, is 26, celebrating by drinking IPA and listening to "Wagon Wheel" (the right version) on repeat (h/t Lauren Passalacqua) ... Luke Carter, director of data science at Y2 Analytics, is 25 (h/t Jack Appelbaum) ... John Legittino, CEO and co-founder of Advoc8, who celebrated last week with friends at U2 (h/ts Josh Sharp, Sara Murray, and Ryan Williams) ... Kara Wheeler, MetLife political affairs manager and an RNC and Hill alum, is 3-0 (h/t boyfriend Jon Adame, filing from Rosemary Beach, Florida) ...

... Uber's Evangeline George, a Team Pelosi alum, is 3-0, headed to Palm Beach with friends for the weekend (h/t Tom Manatos) ... Dan Judy, Vice President with North Star Opinion Research in Old Town (h/t John Celock) ... Laura Turanchik ... Bob McBarton ... Josefina Carbonell ... Robyn Shapiro ... Ward Carroll, U.S. Naval Institute's director of outreach ... Emily Sabbath ... Roxanne Conlin ... Alexandra Acker-Lyons, a Democracy

Alliance alum and founder of AL Advising, a philanthropic and political consulting firm ... Dan Leistikow ... Rachael Gorlin ... Kenzie Bok ... Norm Sterzenbach ... Jake Vilsack (h/ts Teresa Vilmain) ... photographer Gregory Beals ... Will Cappelletti, investment strategist at Chevron and a Don Rumsfeld alum ... Jake Stafford ... Montana Rep. Ellie Boldman-Hill Smith ... Douglas Waller is 68 ... Elizabeth Blackney ... David Alan Grier is 61 ... Mike Tyson is 51 ... Lizzy Caplan is 35 ... Michael Phelps is 32 (h/ts AP)

****** **A message from the Coalition for Affordable Prescription Drugs (CAPD):** A new study estimates that Medicare Part D costs would be 58 percent higher without pharmacy benefit managers' (PBMs') clinical tools and price negotiations with drug manufacturers and pharmacies. The study shows PBMs significantly lower premiums and out-of-pocket costs for Medicare beneficiaries. In fact, PBMs are projected to save Medicare Part D $896 billion over the next decade. Thanks to PBMs, Medicare Part D continues to drive savings and value for taxpayers and beneficiaries, ensuring that more than 39 million American seniors can access the prescription drugs they need. Learn more at affordableprescriptiondrugs.org ******

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To: Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
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Subject: July 13 -- Daily Environment Report

Daily Environment Report

July 13, 2017 - Number 133

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Leading the News

Budget
Appropriations Bill Advances With Cuts for EPA, Interior
A spending bill with cuts for environmental and public lands agencies was approved July 12 by a House subcommittee, over Democratic objections that the cuts were too big.

Water Resources
Drought Bill Passes House, Draws Ire of Top California Democrats
The Republican-led House July 12 passed a bill that would streamline water project permitting and take other actions to alleviate drought in California, but the state's top Democrats see it as a threat to state sovereignty and are vowing to kill it in the Senate.

News

Air Pollution
Ozone Standards Delay Illegal, Advocates Argue in Lawsuit
Postponing decisions under the EPA's new ozone pollution limits for a year is illegal, a dozen environmental and public health groups said in a lawsuit.

Air Pollution
Senate Panel Votes to Reauthorize Diesel Grant Program
The Senate Environment and Public Works Committee approved bipartisan legislation to reauthorize a popular federal clean air program that targets emissions from older diesel engines.

Biotechnology
App Links Chinese Farmers With Pesticide-Dropping Drones

Chinese farmers can now order drone-sprayed pesticides and fertilizers via a smartphone app.

Biotechnology

Genetically Modified Soybean to Get EU Okay Despite Split Vote

A genetically modified soybean will soon be allowed to be imported into the European Union, despite an inconclusive vote of the bloc's member countries July 12 and a negative European Parliament opinion, the European Commission told Bloomberg BNA.

Brownfields

Senate Brownfields Bill With Added Liability Relief Advances

New bipartisan brownfields legislation in the Senate could let some entities off the hook for contaminated site cleanup, while allowing more parties to become prospective site purchasers.

Budget

Energy Innovation Agency Told to Work on Despite Budget Cuts

The Energy Department's program to invest in innovative energy technologies should keep working even though it's in line for elimination, a House appropriator said.

Chemical Security

Chemical Safety Board Avoids Funding Cut in House—For Now

House lawmakers' decision to leave the U.S. Chemical Safety Board's funding flat in fiscal 2018 is a small reprieve after the White House proposed eliminating the agency earlier this year.

Chemicals

EPA to Release New Chemical Control Rules Within Month: Official

The EPA will release new chemical control rules within the next month, clearing part of the logjam of company requests to register new chemicals, an agency official told Bloomberg BNA July 12.

Climate Policy

Australian States Seek Zero Carbon Emissions Absent Federal Plan

Another Australian state has committed to net-zero greenhouse emissions by 2050, meaning most of the country's economy now operates under that goal despite the absence of a federal policy.

Climate Policy

EU, the Number 20 in G-20, Finds Its Voice as U.S. Waffles

At global summits, national leaders like Donald Trump, Vladimir Putin, Xi Jinping, or Angela Merkel typically get the bulk of the attention. During last week's Group of 20 meeting in Hamburg, a more faceless entity—the European Union—took the lead, especially on trade and climate change.

EPA

Senate Environment Panel Approves EPA Enforcement Nominee

A Senate committee narrowly approved the nomination of Susan Parker Bodine to serve as EPA's assistant administrator for the Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance.

Endangered Species

Interior Picks Hint at Lesser Focus on Endangered Species

President Donald Trump's picks to fill open spots at the Interior Department may indicate

endangered species protections will be less of a priority, according to environmental advocates.

Energy

Bill to Boost Carbon Capture Tax Credit Resurfaces in Senate

The recent collapse of high-profile carbon capture project at Mississippi's Kemper plant isn't deterring Senate lawmakers from pushing forward with a new policy to provide an incentive for that technology.

Energy

Nuclear Regulatory Commission Nominees Clear Senate Panel

Two nominees for the Nuclear Regulatory Commission cleared the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee June 29.

Energy

Trump Picks Banker, Executive as Energy Undersecretaries

President Donald Trump's pick to be the Energy Department's third-ranking official is an energy attorney and executive at an energy company in which billionaire Warren Buffett's Berkshire Hathaway Inc. has a controlling stake.

Food

General Mills Dodges Label Suit Over Pesticide Residue

General Mills, Inc. July 12 dodged would-be class suits alleging it deceptively labels Nature Valley granola products as "natural" when they contain trace amounts of the weedkiller chemical glyphosate (In re General Mills Glyphosate Litig., D. Minn., No. 16-2869, 7/12/17).

Fuel Efficiency

Australia Drive for Stricter Fuel Efficiency Angers Automakers

The Australian government is considering a fuel efficiency standard for new light vehicles that has angered the association representing companies including Toyota, Volkswagen and Ford, but pleased climate advocacy groups.

Hazardous Waste

Tennessee Hazardous Waste Handler Admits to Testing Fraud

An Oak Ridge, Tenn.-based manufacturing company admitted July 11 to fraudulent hazardous material certifications for devices it shipped and agreed to pay $500,000 in remediation and fines.

NAFTA

Texas Lawmaker Sees NAFTA Labor Provisions Attracting Votes

A vote on a modernized North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) will attract more Democrats than past trade deals since NAFTA 2.0 will contain upgrades to labor and environmental provisions, Rep. Will Hurd (R-Texas) said. "There's going to be a labor section in NAFTA," Hurd said, adding that pro-trade Democrats who view labor and environment as critical pieces in trade deals will "probably be happy with it." The pre-election rhetoric on NAFTA was in line with ...

Natural Resources

Utah's National Monument Stance Sends Trade Show to Colorado

Utah's perceived hostile stance against federal public lands designation spurred The North Face, Patagonia, REI and other outdoors recreation companies to urge a retailer association to move three major trade shows from Salt Lake City to Denver, an officer for The North Face told Bloomberg BNA.

Oil & Gas

Billion-Barrel Mexican Find Could Spur Rush on Next Oil Auctions

A billion-barrel crude discovery in Mexico could be just the lure the country badly needs to boost investment from oil majors as it lacks the wherewithal to reverse years of sagging output.

Pipeline Safety

Transportation Agency to Audit Pipeline Safety Research

The Department of Transportation is reviewing its communications on pipeline safety and use of outside research through an audit, it announced July 12.

Regulatory Policy

House Panel Moves to Repress 'Back-Room' Rulemaking

"Sue and settle" rulemaking by federal agencies, carried out without public input or knowledge, would be abolished under a bill approved by a House panel July 12.

Renewable Energy

Solar Power Gets $46 Million Boost From Energy Department

The Energy Department awarded $46.2 million in research grants to improve solar energy technologies and reduce costs to 3 cents per kilowatt-hour by 2030.

Shareholder Activism

NRG to Shed Up to $4 Billion of Assets on Elliott Pressure

NRG Energy Inc., the U.S. power generator facing pressure from billionaire investor Paul Singer, rose the most in almost nine years after announcing plans to shed as much as $4 billion of assets.

Toxic Torts

Correction

A story that ran in Daily Environment Report July 12 on a proposed class settlement involving a 2014 chemical spill into West Virginia's Elk River incorrectly said the settlement had been approved. The story has been corrected and reflects concerns the court said would have to be addressed prior to approval.

Vehicle Fuels

Markup on Ethanol Boost Could Come Before August Recess

A committee vote on legislation to boost ethanol sales could take place before the August recess, a spokeswoman for Sen. Chuck Grassley (R-Iowa), the chief ethanol proponent in the Senate, told Bloomberg BNA.

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Daily Environment Report for EPA

To: Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
From: Bloomberg BNA
Sent: Thur 11/9/2017 1:13:57 PM
Subject: Nov. 09 -- EHS State Regulatory Alert

EHS State Regulatory Alert

November 09, 2017 - Number 216

You can create a report customized by topic, jurisdiction, and date range by using the Regulatory Summaries Report Tool. The report can be generated in Excel, Word, or PDF.

Alaska

MINING
Mining Rights
Alaska MINING

Notice announces the intention of the Department of Natural Resources to amend regulations under 11 AAC 86 regarding mining rights and the use and management of mineral properties. The draft amendments address locations on state land and on state-selected land, who and what qualifies to acquire or hold exploration and mining rights, and certificates of location. The draft amendments also address rental payments, annual labor, abandonment, and lease contracts. Comments are sought on the effectiveness of the existing regulatory framework concerning the establishment and maintenance of mining rights and the use and management of mineral properties and on the draft revisions. Meetings are scheduled for Dec. 6 and 15, 2017, in Fairbanks and Anchorage, respectively. Comments are due Dec. 22, 2017. Contact: Joseph Joyner; DNR; 907-269-8511; joe.joyner@alaska.gov

—Alaska Regulations (11/07/2017)

Regulatory Update

OIL AND GAS INDUSTRY
Drilling/Well Casing and Cementing
Alaska OIL AND GAS INDUSTRY

Proposed rule of the Department of Administration, Oil and Gas Conservation Commission, amends regulations under 20 AAC 25.030 regarding well casing and cementing. The rule provides that surface casing must be set below the base of permafrost. A hearing is scheduled for Jan. 4, 2018, in Anchorage. Comments are due Dec. 20, 2017. Contact: Jody Colombie; OGCC; 907-793-1221; jody.colombie@alaska.gov

—Alaska Regulations (11/07/2017)

Regulatory Update

New Jersey

AIR

Control of Air Pollution by VOCs and NOx/Administrative Procedures and Penalties
New Jersey AIR

Final rule of the Department of Environmental Protection, Division of Air Quality, amends regulations under NJAC 7:27-16.1 through :27-19.8 (nonconsecutive) and :27A-3.10 and adopts regulations under NJAC 7:27-16.14, -16.15, and -16.24 concerning air pollution control and air administrative procedures and penalties. The rule updates the reasonably available control technology for control of emissions of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and nitrogen oxides (NOx). The rule addresses control requirements and best management practices for VOCs from paper, film, and foil coatings; fiberglass boat manufacturing materials; miscellaneous metal and plastic parts coatings; and industrial cleaning solvents. The rule also addresses control requirements and best management practices for NOx from natural gas compressor engines and turbines. In addition, the rule establishes related penalties for violations of recordkeeping, management practices, and air pollution control requirements. The rule will be submitted to the EPA as a revision to the state implementation plan. The rule is effective Nov. 6, 2017. Contact: Alice Previte; DEP; 609-292-9398

—New Jersey Register (11/06/2017)

Regulatory Update

Ohio

AIR

Low Reid Vapor Pressure Fuel Requirements
Ohio AIR

Proposed rule of the Ohio EPA rescinds regulations under OAC 3745-72-01 through -08 to remove low Reid vapor pressure fuel requirements for the Cincinnati and Dayton areas. The rule will be submitted to the U.S. EPA as a revision to the state implementation plan. A hearing is scheduled for Dec. 7, 2017, in Columbus. Comments are due Dec. 7, 2017. Contact: Holly Kaloz; OEPA; 614-644-2760; holly.kaloz@epa.ohio.gov

—Ohio Regulations (11/06/2017)

Regulatory Update

HAZARDOUS WASTE MANAGEMENT

Hazardous Waste Identification and Listing/Standards for Generators, New Facilities
Ohio HAZARDOUS WASTE MANAGEMENT

Proposed rule of the Ohio EPA amends regulations under OAC 3745-51-23, -51-40, -52-205, -54-99, 65-94, -270-05, -270-06, and -270-44 to update hazardous waste identification and listing standards, requirements for generators and new facilities, and wastes that are restricted from land disposal. The rule clarifies provisions concerning characteristics of reactivity; conditional exclusion for used, intact cathode ray tubes exported for recycling; university labs; compliance monitoring; and groundwater monitoring recordkeeping and reporting. The rule also clarifies the procedures for case-by-case extensions to an effective date, petitions to allow land disposal of certain prohibited wastes, and variances from treatment standards. A hearing is scheduled for Dec. 6, 2017, in Columbus. Comments are due Dec. 6, 2017. Contact: Kit Arthur; OEPA; 614-644-2621; Katherine.Arthur@epa.ohio.gov

—Ohio Regulations (11/06/2017)

Regulatory Update

HAZARDOUS WASTE MANAGEMENT
Hazardous Waste Management System/Definitions
Ohio HAZARDOUS WASTE MANAGEMENT

Proposed rule of the Ohio EPA amends regulations under OAC 3745-50-10 regarding definitions and computation of time for hazardous waste management. The rule adds definitions to reflect the federal Cathode Ray Tube Rule. A hearing is scheduled for Dec. 6, 2017, in Columbus. Comments are due Dec. 6, 2017. Contact: Kit Arthur; OEPA; 614-644-2621; Katherine.Arthur@epa.ohio.gov

—Ohio Regulations (11/06/2017)

Regulatory Update

HAZARDOUS WASTE MANAGEMENT
Hazardous Waste Standards for Generators, Transporters, New Facilities, Closure
Ohio HAZARDOUS WASTE MANAGEMENT

Proposed rule of the Ohio EPA amends regulations under OAC 3745-52-10 through -52-60 (nonconsecutive), -53-10, -54-12 through -54-94 (nonconsecutive), and -55-74 and rescinds and readopts regulations under OAC 3745-53-11 and -20 regarding hazardous waste standards for generators, transporters, and new facilities and corrective action, closure, post-closure, and financial requirements. The rule updates the requirement for transporters of hazardous waste to receive a U.S. EPA identification number and addresses state registration requirements. The rule also prohibits hazardous waste transporters from transporting hazardous waste without the use of a hazardous waste manifest and addresses requirements for owner and operator signatures. In addition, the rule addresses generator identification and reporting standards, personnel training requirements, imports and exports of hazardous waste to a foreign country, concentration limits, and requirements for container inspections. A hearing is scheduled for Dec. 6, 2017, in Columbus. Comments are due Dec. 6, 2017. Contact: Kit Arthur; OEPA; 614-644-2621; Katherine.Arthur@epa.ohio.gov

—Ohio Regulations (11/06/2017)

Regulatory Update

HAZARDOUS WASTE MANAGEMENT
Hazardous Waste Standards for Incinerators, Closure and Post-Closure, Universal Wastes
Ohio HAZARDOUS WASTE MANAGEMENT

Proposed rule of the Ohio EPA amends regulations under OAC 3745-57-91 through -273-70 (nonconsecutive) regarding hazardous waste standards for incinerators, closure and post-closure, certain disposal, and universal waste. The rule clarifies requirements for environmental performance standards for miscellaneous units, notification, training of personnel, testing and maintenance of equipment, and use of a manifest system. The rule also clarifies requirements for container inspections, recyclable materials used for precious metal recovery, lead-acid batteries reclamation, and military munitions. In addition, the rule clarifies requirements for household and conditionally exempt small-quantity generator waste and imports of universal waste. Finally the rule clarifies export standards for small-quantity handlers of universal waste, large-quantity handlers of universal waste, and for universal waste transporters. A hearing is scheduled for Dec. 6, 2017, in Columbus. Comments are due Dec. 6, 2017. Contact: Kit Arthur; OEPA; 614-644-2621; Katherine.Arthur@epa.ohio.gov

—Ohio Regulations (11/06/2017)

Regulatory Update

HAZARDOUS WASTE MANAGEMENT
Hazardous Waste Standards for New Facilities, Disposal
Ohio HAZARDOUS WASTE MANAGEMENT

Proposed rule of the Ohio EPA amends regulations under OAC 3745-54-93 and -266-101 regarding hazardous waste standards for new facilities and disposal. The rule clarifies requirements for hazardous constituents and for management prior to burning. A hearing is scheduled for Dec. 6, 2017, in Columbus. Comments are due Dec. 6, 2017. Contact: Kit Arthur; OEPA; 614-644-2621; Katherine.Arthur@epa.ohio.gov

—Ohio Regulations (11/06/2017)

Regulatory Update

HAZARDOUS WASTE MANAGEMENT
Hazardous Waste Standards for New Facilities, Surface Impoundments, Incinerators, Closure
Ohio HAZARDOUS WASTE MANAGEMENT

Proposed rule of the Ohio EPA amends regulations under OAC 3745-52-23 through -68-13 (nonconsecutive) regarding hazardous waste standards for generators, new facilities, surface impoundments, waste piles, tanks, landfills, incinerators, thermal treatment, and closure and post-closure. The rule clarifies requirements for use of a manifest and the unmanifested waste report. The rule also addresses the land treatment program, land treatment demonstration, and land treatment for food-chain crops. In addition, the rule addresses special requirements for incompatible waste containers, surface impoundments, waste piles, land treatment, and landfills. A hearing is scheduled for Dec. 6, 2017, in Columbus. Comments are due Dec. 6, 2017. Contact: Kit Arthur; OEPA; 614-644-2621; Katherine.Arthur@epa.ohio.gov

—Ohio Regulations (11/06/2017)

Regulatory Update

HAZARDOUS WASTE MANAGEMENT
Identification and Listing of Hazardous Wastes
Ohio HAZARDOUS WASTE MANAGEMENT

Proposed rule of the Ohio EPA adopts regulations under OAC 3745-50-49 and rescinds and readopts regulations under OAC 3745-51-41 regarding hazardous waste permits and identification and listing requirements for hazardous waste management. The rule describes the effect of a permit and specifies that compliance with a permit during its term constitutes compliance for enforcement purposes with federal requirements for liners and leak detection systems for hazardous waste land disposal units and organic air emission standards for tanks, surface impoundments, and containers. The rule also adds references to permit modification and revocation requirements and addresses a permit's relationship to property rights and whether a permit does or does not convey. In addition, the rule adds provisions for identification and listing to reflect federal Cathode Ray Tube Rule notification and recordkeeping requirements. A hearing is scheduled for Dec. 6, 2017, in Columbus. Comments are due Dec. 6, 2017. Contact: Kit Arthur; OEPA; 614-644-2621; Katherine.Arthur@epa.ohio.gov

—Ohio Regulations (11/06/2017)

Regulatory Update

HAZARDOUS WASTE MANAGEMENT
Universal Waste Management
Ohio HAZARDOUS WASTE MANAGEMENT

Notice of the Ohio EPA, Division of Environmental Response and Revitalization, announces changes to a Sept. 18, 2017, proposed rule to amend regulations under OAC 3745-50-45 through -273-62 (nonconsecutive), adopt regulations under OAC 3745-273-13 and -89, and rescind and readopt regulations under OAC 3745-273-33 concerning universal waste management. The rule designates hazardous nonempty aerosol containers, hazardous antifreeze, and hazardous paint and paint-related wastes as universal wastes. The rule also updates standards for small- and large-quantity handlers of universal waste. The changes clarify that an antifreeze/used oil mixture may be defined as a used oil or a hazardous waste and that if the collected contents from aerosol containers consist solely of paint, then the collected contents are eligible to be classified as a universal waste paint. Contact: Karen Hale; OEPA, Division of Environmental Response and Revitalization; 614-644-3020; karen.hale@epa.ohio.gov

—Ohio Regulations (11/06/2017)

Regulatory Update

Oregon

AIR
Monetary Offset Rate for Nongenerating Energy Facilities
Oregon AIR

Final rule of the Department of Energy, Energy Facility Siting Council, amends regulations under OAR 345-024-0580 and -0620 regarding the monetary offset rate for carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions from nongenerating energy facilities. The rule increases the monetary offset rate to $1.90 per ton of CO2 and specifies that the rate will remain the same for at least two years. The rule also increases the methane equivalency weight to 25 pounds of CO2 and the nitrous oxide equivalency rate to 298 pounds of CO2. The rule is effective Oct. 23, 2017. Contact: Jason Sierman; DOE, Energy Facility Siting Council; 503-373-2127; jason.sierman@oregon.gov

—Oregon Bulletin (11/01/2017)

Regulatory Update

AIR
Smoke-free Environments in Workplaces and Public Places
Oregon AIR

Proposed rule of the Oregon Health Authority, Public Health Division, amends regulations under OAR 333-015-030 and -0064 regarding requirements for smoke-free environments in workplaces and public places. The rule revises the definition for "enclosed area" to reference the statutory definition. A hearing is scheduled for Dec. 6, 2017, in Portland. Comments are due Dec. 8, 2017. Contact: Brittany Hall; OHA, Public Health Division; 503-449-9808; brittany.a.hall@state.or.us

—Oregon Bulletin (11/01/2017)

Regulatory Update

ENDANGERED SPECIES
Cougar Management
Oregon ENDANGERED SPECIES

Final rule of the Department of Fish and Wildlife amends regulations under OAR 635-180-0001 to update the cougar management plan. The rule incorporates by reference portions of the 2017 management plan, including cougar incident response guidelines, captive cougar kitten guidelines, the process for development and selection of cougar target areas, and a glossary of terms. The rule is effective Oct. 17, 2017. Contact: Roxann Borisch; DFW; 503-947-6314; roxann.b.borisch@state.or.us

—Oregon Bulletin (11/01/2017)

Regulatory Update

GENERAL ENVIRONMENT AND SAFETY
Energy Facility Siting Council/Site Certificates
Oregon GENERAL ENVIRONMENT AND SAFETY

Final rule of the Department of Energy, Energy Facility Siting Council, renumbers regulations under 345-027-0000, -0020, -0023, -0028, and 0030 concerning requests for amendments to site certificates. The rule addresses certification expiration, certain certificate conditions, and amendments to extend construction beginning and completion deadlines. The rule is effective Oct. 24, 2017. Contact: Jason Sierman; Energy Facility Siting Council; 503-373-2127; jason.sierman@oregon.gov

—Oregon Bulletin (11/01/2017)

Regulatory Update

OIL AND GAS INDUSTRY
Oil and Gas Rules/Well Plugging
Oregon OIL AND GAS INDUSTRY

Temporary rule of the Department of Geology and Mineral Industries amends regulations under OAR 632-010-0198 to update well plugging procedures. The rule clarifies that when there is an open hole below the base of any open casing, a cement plug not less than 100 feet in length must be placed to extend at least 50 feet above and at least 50 feet below the base of the casing. The rule is effective Sept. 19, 2017, and expires March 13, 2018. Contact: Robert Houston; DGMI; 541-225-6451; robert.houston@oregon.gov

—Oregon Bulletin (11/01/2017)

Regulatory Update

TOXIC SUBSTANCES
Certification of Lead-Based Paint Demolition Contractors
Oregon TOXIC SUBSTANCES

Proposed rule of the Oregon Health Authority, Public Health Division, adopts regulations under OAR 333-068-0070 regarding certification to engage in lead-based paint activities to perform residential demolitions. The rule specifies the acceptable certifications for contractors performing demolitions. A hearing is scheduled for Dec. 6, 2017, in Portland. Comments are due Dec. 8, 2017. Contact: Brittany Hall; OHA, Public Health Division; 503-449-9808; brittany.a.hall@state.or.us

—Oregon Bulletin (11/01/2017)

Regulatory Update

Virginia

OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH
VOSH Program/Whistleblower Protection
Virginia OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH

Final rule of the Department of Labor and Industry, Safety and Health Codes Board, amends regulations under 16 VAC 25-60-30 through -260 (nonconsecutive) regarding administrative standards for the Occupational Safety and Health Program. The rule requires an employer to comply with the state Department of Transportation (VDOT) Work Area Protection Manual rather than the federal Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices when working under a contract between the employer and either the state or any political subdivision or public body when the contract requires employer compliance with the VDOT manual. The rule also clarifies anti-

retaliation safeguards for public sector employees, clarifies the documents that may be disclosed concerning the Voluntary Protection Program, and specifies that the commissioner can request penalties or fines for occupational discrimination or anti-retaliation cases at the litigation stage. In addition, the rule specifies that the burden for proving an affirmative defense lies with the employer. The rule is effective Dec. 15, 2017. Contact: Jay Withrow; DLI; 804-786-9873; jay.withrow@doli.virginia.gov

—Virginia Register (11/13/2017)

Regulatory Update

WATER
City of Norfolk/State Water Control Law Enforcement Action
Virginia WATER

Notice of the Department of Environmental Quality, State Water Control Board, announces a proposed consent order with the City of Norfolk for alleged State Water Control Law violations in connection with unauthorized impacts to wetlands at the Western Branch Dam Safety Improvements project in Suffolk. The order requires payment of a civil penalty of $28,770 and performance of actions specified in a schedule of compliance. Comments are due Nov. 28, 2017. Contact: Jennifer Coleman; DEQ, Tidewater Regional Office; 757-518-2000; jennifer.coleman@deq.virginia.gov

—Virginia Register (10/30/2017)

Regulatory Update

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EHS State Regulatory Alert

To: Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
From: POLITICO Pro Energy Whiteboard
Sent: Wed 9/13/2017 10:32:10 PM
Subject: Senate energy committee delays vote on FERC, DOE and DOI nominees

By Darius Dixon

09/13/2017 06:28 PM EDT

The Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee announced this evening it postponed a Thursday morning series of votes on President Donald Trump's nominees for FERC and the departments of Energy and Interior.

The panel was slated to consider Kevin McIntyre for chairman of FERC, Richard Glick for FERC commissioner, David Jonas for DOE general counsel, and Ryan Nelson and Joseph Balash for solicitor and assistant secretary for land and minerals management at DOI. The vote will now happen Sept. 19.

A committee spokesperson said the vote was delayed because of "member availability."

WHAT'S NEXT: The Senate energy committee will vote on the nominees on Tuesday at 9:30 a.m.

To view online:
https://www.politicopro.com/energy/whiteboard/2017/09/senate-energy-committee-delays-vote-on-ferc-doe-and-doi-nominees-092886

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This email was sent to jackson.ryan@epa.gov by: POLITICO, LLC 1000 Wilson Blvd. Arlington, VA, 22209, USA

To: Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
From: Bloomberg BNA
Sent: Wed 6/28/2017 1:24:57 PM
Subject: June 28 -- EHS Federal Regulatory Alert

EHS Federal Regulatory Alert

June 28, 2017 - Number 123

You can create a report customized by topic, jurisdiction, and date range by using the Regulatory Summaries Report Tool. The report can be generated in Excel, Word, or PDF.

Summaries

AIR
Designations for the 2015 Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards
AIR

Notice of the EPA extends until Oct. 1, 2018, the deadline for the agency to issue initial area designations for the 2015 ozone NAAQS, which were established in an Oct. 26, 2015, final rule (80 FR 65292). The EPA needs the additional time to evaluate numerous issues related to the 2015 NAAQS, including the role of background ozone levels and options for accounting for international transport. The EPA explains that the designations process also could be impacted by the Ozone Cooperative Compliance Task Force, which the agency is establishing to develop additional options for states to comply with the ozone standard. Contact: Denise Scott; EPA, Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards; 919-541-4208; scott.denise@epa.gov. Citations: 40 CFR 81

82 FR 29246 (06/28/2017)

Regulatory Update

GENERAL ENVIRONMENT AND SAFETY
Alaska/Chuitna Coal Mine Project
GENERAL ENVIRONMENT AND SAFETY

Notice of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers announces the withdrawal of a Jan. 4, 2011, notice of intent (76 FR 336) to prepare a draft supplemental environmental impact statement for the proposed Chuitna Coal Mine Project in the Beluga Coal Field, 45 miles west of Anchorage, Alaska. The EIS would have addressed an application by PacRim Coal LP, of Anchorage, for permits to mine a 5,050-acre lease tract that would have discharged dredged and/or fill materiel into approximately 2,550 acres of U.S. waters, including wetlands. The applicant is no longer pursuing permits for the project. Contact: Jason Berkner; USACE, Regulatory Division; 907-753-5778; Jason.R.Berkner@usace.army.mil

82 FR 29285 (06/28/2017)

Regulatory Update

GENERAL ENVIRONMENT AND SAFETY
California/Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center
GENERAL ENVIRONMENT AND SAFETY

Notice of the Federal Aviation Administration announces the agency's decision to adopt the Department of the Navy's environmental impact statement and supplemental EIS (82 FR 11564; 02/24/2017) for land acquisition and airspace establishment to support large-scale Marine Air Ground Task Force live-fire and maneuver training at the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center in Twentynine Palms, Calif. The agency has determined that the EIS and SEIS adequately assess and disclose the environmental impacts of the temporary special use air space and testing of advanced weapons systems. Contact: Paul Miller; FAA, Office of Airspace Services; 202-267-7378. Citations: 40 CFR 1506.3; 40 CFR 1508.5

82 FR 29361 (06/28/2017)

Regulatory Update

GENERAL ENVIRONMENT AND SAFETY
Justice Department Task Force on Regulatory Reform
GENERAL ENVIRONMENT AND SAFETY

Notice of the Justice Department requests comments regarding subjects that may be appropriate for review by the department's task force on regulatory reform. The task force was established under Executive Order 13777 (82 FR 12285; 03/01/2017), which required agencies to establish regulatory reform task forces to evaluate existing regulations and make recommendations based on factors including impacts on job creation, necessity, effectiveness, cost-benefits, and consistency with other regulatory reform initiatives. The department seeks comments on specific regulatory actions that should be repealed, replaced, or modified, as well as various kinds of actions taken by the department that the public perceives to be regulatory in nature even if they did not result from formal rulemakings. Comments are due Aug. 14, 2017. Contact: Robert Hinchman; DOJ, Office of Legal Policy; 202-514-8059

82 FR 29248 (06/28/2017)

Regulatory Update

GENERAL ENVIRONMENT AND SAFETY
Pennsylvania/Oakford Storage Complex
GENERAL ENVIRONMENT AND SAFETY

Notice of FERC announces the filing of a prior notice request by Dominion Energy Transmission Inc., of Richmond, Va., concerning the Oakford Storage Complex in Westmoreland County, Pa. The project includes a proposal to plug and abandon specified "future storage" wells, associated pipelines, and a meter. The certificated physical parameters and capacity will remain unchanged. The agency intends to complete an environmental assessment or issue a notice of schedule of environmental review by Sept. 26, 2017. Protests and motions to intervene are due Aug. 28, 2017. Contact: Nathaniel Davis; Federal Energy Regulatory Commission; 866-208-3676; FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov

82 FR 29293 (06/28/2017)

Regulatory Update

HAZARDOUS WASTE CLEANUP
Ohio/Lammers Barrel Superfund Site
HAZARDOUS WASTE CLEANUP

Notice of the EPA announces a proposed de minimis administrative agreement under CERCLA Section 122(g) with Sunoco (R&M) LLC, of Philadelphia, regarding the Lammers Barrel Superfund Site in Beavercreek, Ohio. The proposed settlement would require Sunoco to pay an additional $85,254 to the Superfund special account for the site for remedial design and remedial action work at Operable Unit 2. The settlement also would include a covenant from the EPA not to sue, subject to limited reservations, and would provide Sunoco with contribution protection. Comments are due July 28, 2017. Contact: Maria Gonzalez; EPA Region 5, Office of Regional Counsel; 312-886-6630; gonzalez.maria@epa.gov

82 FR 29293 (06/28/2017)

Regulatory Update

OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH
Tracking of Workplace Injuries and Illnesses
OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH

Proposed rule of OSHA would delay until Dec. 1, 2017, the compliance date for the electronic reporting requirements in a May 12, 2016, final rule (81 FR 29624) regarding the tracking and reporting of workplace injuries and illnesses. The 2016 rule requires employers with 250 or more employees and employers in specified industries with 20 to 249 employees to electronically submit occupational injury and illness records on an annual basis for reporting on the agency's website. The current rule would delay the electronic submission deadline for 2016 Form 300A to allow the agency additional time to review the requirements prior to implementation and to allow affected entities to familiarize themselves with the electronic reporting system, which will be available Aug. 1, 2017. OSHA intends to issue a separate proposed rule to reconsider, revise, or remove other provisions of the 2016 final rule. Comments are due July 13, 2017. Contact: Miriam Schoenbaum; OSHA, Office of Statistical Analysis; 202-693-1841; schoenbaum.miriam@dol.gov. Citations: 29 CFR 1902.7 through 1904.41 (nonconsecutive); 29 CFR 1904, Subpart E, Appendix A

82 FR 29261 (06/28/2017)

Regulatory Update

RADIATION
List of Approved Spent Fuel Storage Casks
RADIATION

Direct final rule of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission revises the Holtec International HI-STORM Flood/Wind Multipurpose Canister (MPC) Storage System design listing in the list of approved spent fuel storage casks. The rule revises the list of authorized contents to permit burnup credit for fuel types in the MPC-37. The rule is effective Sept. 11, 2017, unless adverse comments are

received by July 28, 2017. Contact: Vanessa Cox; NRC, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards; 301-415-8342; Vanessa.Cox@nrc.gov. Citations: 10 CFR 72.214

82 FR 29225 (06/28/2017)

Regulatory Update

RADIATION
List of Approved Spent Fuel Storage Casks
RADIATION

Proposed rule of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission revises the Holtec International HI-STORM Flood/Wind Multipurpose Canister (MPC) Storage System design listing in the list of approved spent fuel storage casks. The rule revises the list of authorized contents to permit burnup credit for fuel types in the MPC-37. A concurrent direct final rule adopts the change, effective Sept. 11, 2017. Comments are due July 28, 2017. Contact: Vanessa Cox; NRC, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards; 301-415-8342; Vanessa.Cox@nrc.gov. Citations: 10 CFR 72.214

82 FR 29249 (06/28/2017)

Regulatory Update

TOXIC SUBSTANCES
Dispensing Records of Individual Practitioners
TOXIC SUBSTANCES

Notice announces the intention of the Drug Enforcement Agency to seek OMB approval for a continuing information collection request regarding recordkeeping and associated requirements for individual practitioners registered with the DEA. The collection addresses the biennial inventory and maintenance of records for each narcotic and non-narcotic controlled substance manufactured, received, sold, delivered, or disposed of by registrants. Registrants are responsible for keeping such records for at least two years for inspection and copying by authorized U.S. officers or employees. Comments are due Aug. 28, 2017. Contact: Michael Lewis; DEA, Diversion Control Division; 202-598-6812

82 FR 29330 (06/28/2017)

Regulatory Update

WATER
Credit Assistance for Water Infrastructure Projects/Fees
WATER

Final rule of the EPA establishes fees for credit assistance for projects expected to proceed to closing under the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act program. The application fee for projects serving small communities of under 25,000 people is $25,000, and a credit processing fee will be applied at the time of project closing. For all other projects applications, the fee is $100,000. An annual servicing fee dependent on costs of servicing the credit instrument will be charged during repayment of the loan, and an extraordinary expenses fee will be charged for borrowers who experience technical, financial, or legal issues that require the agency to incur expenses beyond standard monitoring. The rule is effective June 28, 2017. Contact: Jordan

Dorfman; EPA, Office of Wastewater Management; 202-564-0614; dorfman.jordan@epa.gov.
Citations: 40 CFR 35.10080

82 FR 29242 (06/28/2017)

Regulatory Update

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EHS Federal Regulatory Alert

To: Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
From: Anna Palmer Jake Sherman Daniel Lippman
Sent: Sun 7/9/2017 2:40:01 PM
Subject: POLITICO Playbook, presented by Postmates: TRUMP pitches cyber-security task force with Putin, and other Republicans gasp -- TRUMP JR., KUSHNER met with Russian attorney during campaign -- SUNDAY BEST -- SAM SMITH'S WEDDING -- B'DAY: Patrick Steel

View online version | Add politicoplaybook@politico.com to your address book.

Today's POLITICO Playbook presented by Postmates
07/09/2017 10:37 AM EDT

By ANNA PALMER (anna@politico.com; @apalmerdc), JAKE SHERMAN (sherman@politico.com; @JakeSherman) and DANIEL LIPPMAN (daniel@politico.com; @dlippman)

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Driving the Day

BREAKING -- AP/Mosul: "The Latest: State TV: Iraqi prime minister arrives in Mosul": "Iraq's state TV says the country's prime minister has arrived in Mosul to declare victory over the Islamic State group in the more than eight-month old operation to drive the militants from the city. State TV quotes Haider al-Abadi as saying he 'congratulates the fighters and the people on the big victory' in the key city.

"Dressed in a black uniform of a type worn by Iraqi special forces, al-Abadi was shown on Sunday as descending from a military plane and was greeted by senior security forces commanders. Backed by U.S.-led coalition, Iraq launched the operation to retake Mosul in October. Iraqi state TV says government forces have drove the militants from all areas and are 'chasing' the militants in some areas in the city." http://bit.ly/2sU1vaq

Happy Sunday. Get some rest. The next three weeks in Washington are going to be a whirlwind.

THE PRESIDENT is at the Trump golf course in Virginia today, per the White House pool.

THE PRESIDENT SPEAKS at 7:15 a.m. : "The G 20 Summit was a great success for the U.S. - Explained that the U.S. must fix the many bad trade deals it has made. Will get done!" ... **at 7:31 a.m.:** "I strongly pressed President Putin twice about Russian meddling in our election. He vehemently denied it. I've already given my opinion....." ... **at 7:37 a.m.:** "...We negotiated a ceasefire in parts of Syria which will save lives. Now it is time to move forward in working constructively with Russia!" ...

... **at 7:50 a.m.:** "Putin & I discussed forming an impenetrable Cyber Security unit so that election hacking, & many other negative things, will be guarded.." ... **at 7:57 a.m.:** "..and safe. Questions were asked about why the CIA & FBI had to ask the DNC 13 times for their SERVER, and were rejected, still don't...." ... **at 8:06 a.m.:** "...have it. Fake News said 17 intel agencies when actually 4 (had to apologize). Why did Obama do NOTHING when he had info before election?" ... **at 8:31 a.m.:** "Sanctions were not discussed at my meeting with President Putin. Nothing will be done until the Ukrainian & Syrian problems are solved!"

EH, NOT SO FAST -- LOTS OF REPUBLICANS V. TRUMP -- @marcorubio: "While reality & pragmatism requires that we engage Vladimir Putin, he will never be a trusted ally or a reliable constructive partner. 1/3" ... "Partnering with Putin on a 'Cyber Security Unit' is akin to partnering with Assad on a 'Chemical Weapons Unit'. 2/3" ... "We have no quarrel with Russia or the Russian people. Problem is with Putin & his oppression, war crimes & interference in our elections 1/3".AP

-- TREASURY SECRETARY STEVEN MNUCHIN RESPONDS to Rubio's tweet on ABC's "This Week": "In all due respect, and I think very highly of the senator, but let me just comment ... that I think this is a very important step forward. What we want to make sure is that we coordinate with Russia, that we're focused on cybersecurity together, that we make sure that they never interfere in any democratic elections or conduct any cyber security. And this is like any other strategic alliance. Whether we're doing military exercises with our allies or anything else. This is about having capabilities to make sure that we both fight cyber together, which I think is a very significant accomplishment for President Trump."

-- @BraddJaffy: "Lindsey Graham: 'It's not the dumbest idea I've ever heard, but it's pretty close.' #MTP" ***This is in reference to the cyber security idea***

--CNN's @kaitlancollins: "Trump wants to form a cyber security unit with the leader of the country that US intel says meddled in the 2016 election."

PREET TWEETS -- @PreetBharara: "When pursuing a corrupt politician, mobster or murderer on strong FBI evidence, if he 'vehemently denied it,' we just dropped it usually."

SUNDAY BEST -- CNN's DANA BASH talks with **U.N. Ambassador NIKKI HALEY** on "State of the Union": **BASH:** "The Russian Foreign Minister, Sergey Lavrov, said that President Trump heard and quote accepts Putin's very clear statements that Russia did not interfere in the U.S. election. Is that true?" **HALEY:** "What he did was bring up right away the election meddling, and he did that for a reason. One, he wanted him to basically look him in the eye, let him know that yes, we know you meddled in our elections. Yes we know you did it, cut it out. And I think President Putin did exactly what we thought he would do, which is deny it. This is Russia trying to save face. And they can't. They can't.

"Everybody knows that Russia meddled in our elections. Everybody knows that they're not just meddling in the United States' election. They're doing this across multiple continents, and they're doing this in a way that they're trying to cause chaos within the countries. And it's not just going to be us saying this. I think you're going to hear other leaders come out and say, cut it out, we're not going to put up with it."

-- @ryanstruyk: "Haley on potential cybersecurity partnership with Russia on @CNNSotu: 'We can't trust Russia and we won't ever trust Russia.'"

ON FOX NEWS SUNDAY -- @burgessev: "'The president absolutely did not believe the denial of President Putin,' Priebus says of Putin-Trump talk on election meddling".

HOW DOES ONE MAKE SENSE OF ALL OF THIS? If the president did not believe Putin's denial -- which means he believes Russia did interfere in the election -- why is he starting a cyber-security initiative with him?

-- CBS's JOHN DICKERSON also interviewed **HALEY** on "Face the Nation": **DICKERSON:** "But given that the president, as you said, knows that the Russians meddled, what -- what consequences will they face as a result of that action?" **HALEY:** "I think you're going to have to ask the president. I think that's one of the things is -- first is confronting them, letting them know that we know this happened. Letting them know it can't happen again. I know that they had quite a bit of cyber conversation in terms of cyber meddling or cyber abuse during not just political situations, but also from a security situation, and they talked quite a bit on the cyberattack -- risk. And so I think we'll see what happens there. You know, keep in mind -- yesterday's meeting was all about talk, but at the end of the day, this is all going to be about actions. We now have to see where we go from there."

****** **A message from Postmates:** Operating in over 200 cities across the United States - Postmates is an innovative, on-demand logistics platform, transforming the way goods move around towns by enabling anyone to have anything delivered to their door step within minutes, and driving over $1B in goods and merchandise across its platform in 2017. https://postmates.com ******

... SUNDAY NYT, A1 -- "Trump Team Met With Lawyer Linked to Kremlin During Campaign," by Jo Becker, Matt Apuzzo and Adam Goldman: "Two weeks after Donald J. Trump clinched the Republican presidential nomination last year, his eldest son arranged a meeting at Trump Tower in Manhattan with a Russian lawyer who has connections to the Kremlin, according to confidential government records described to The New York Times. The previously unreported meeting was also attended by Mr. Trump's campaign chairman at the time, Paul J. Manafort, as well as the president's son-in-law, Jared Kushner, according to interviews and the documents, which were outlined by people familiar with them. ...

"The Russian lawyer invited to the Trump Tower meeting , Natalia Veselnitskaya, is

best known for mounting a multipronged attack against the Magnitsky Act, an American law that blacklists suspected Russian human rights abusers. The law so enraged Mr. Putin that he retaliated by halting American adoptions of Russian children. The adoption impasse is a frequently used talking point for opponents of the Magnitsky Act. Ms. Veselnitskaya's campaign against the law has also included attempts to discredit its namesake, Sergei L. Magnitsky, a lawyer and auditor who died in mysterious circumstances in a Russian prison in 2009 after exposing one of the biggest corruption scandals during Mr. Putin's rule.

"In his statement, Donald Trump Jr. said: 'It was a short introductory meeting. I asked Jared and Paul to stop by. We primarily discussed a program about the adoption of Russian children that was active and popular with American families years ago and was since ended by the Russian government, but it was not a campaign issue at the time and there was no follow up.' He added: 'I was asked to attend the meeting by an acquaintance, but was not told the name of the person I would be meeting with beforehand.'

"Late Saturday, Mark Corallo, a spokesman for the president's lawyer, issued a statement implying that the meeting was a setup. Ms. Veselnitskaya and the translator who accompanied her to the meeting misrepresented who they were,' it said. In an interview, Mr. Corallo explained that Ms. Veselnitskaya, in her anti-Magnitsky campaign, employs a private investigator whose firm, Fusion GPS, produced an intelligence dossier that contained unproven allegations against the president. The firm could not be reached for comment." http://nyti.ms/2sTx0RP

WAPO'S JOBY WARRICK: "The secret to Kim's success? Some experts see Russian echoes in North Korea's missile advances": "Four months before its July 4 missile test, North Korea offered the world a rare technical preview of its latest missile engine, one said to be capable of lobbing nuclear warheads at U.S. cities. A video on state-run TV depicted a machine with thickets of tubes and vents, and a shape that struck some U.S. experts as familiar - in a distinctly Soviet way. 'It shocked me,' said Michael Elleman, one weapons expert who noticed jarring similarities between the engine tested by North Korea in March and one he frequently encountered in Russia at the end of the Cold War. ...

"After intensive study, Elleman, a former consultant at the Pentagon, and other specialists would report that they had detected multiple design features in the new North Korean missile engine that echo those of a 1960s-era Soviet workhorse called the RD-250. There is no record of Pyongyang's obtaining blueprints for the Russian missile engine, and experts disagree on whether it ever did so. But the discovery of similarities has focused new attention on a question that has dogged U.S. analysts for at least the past two years: How has North Korea managed to make surprisingly rapid gains in its missile program, despite economic sanctions and a near-universal ban on exports of military technology to the impoverished communist state?" http://wapo.st/2uEC2il

TILLERSON TO KUWAIT -- "Tillerson launches personal diplomacy in Persian

Gulf dispute," by WaPo's Karen DeYoung: "After weeks of public statements and private phone calls with no apparent result, Secretary of State Rex Tillerson has decided to personally intervene in the ongoing Persian Gulf dispute that has threatened U.S. counterterrorism operations in the Middle East. Tillerson will travel late Monday to Kuwait, where its government has unsuccessfully tried to mediate between Saudi Arabia and three other Arab countries that have blockaded and broken relations with the tiny, energy-rich nation of Qatar, home to the largest U.S. military base in the region. He plans to spend the week talking to leaders of the warring gulf capitals, receiving them in Kuwait or shuttling among regional capitals, according to senior U.S. officials, who cautioned that a firm schedule is not yet set." http://wapo.st/2uEPYZP

WHAT AMERICA IS READING -- LOS ANGELES TIMES: "Is it America first? Rest of the world says no ... At the G-20 summit, Trump presents a different global role for the U.S.: Isolation." http://bit.ly/2u61vEb ... **MIAMI HERALD:** "Initiation fees at clubs put millions in Trump's pocket" http://bit.ly/2tWCScR ... **ATLANTA JOURNAL CONSTITUTION:** "CNN's relevancy comes with price: Atlanta-based network finds itself in crosshairs with Trump coverage" http://bit.ly/2sTScY2 ... **BOSTON HERALD:** "IVANKA MAKES SPLASH AT G-20: Takes dad's seat among world leaders" http://bit.ly/2tvDaWY

QUITE THE COVER -- N.Y. POST, with a photo of New York Mayor Bill de Blasio: "DEUTSCH BAG: Mayor feeds his ego in Germany after fleeing a city in mourning" http://bit.ly/2sTzUWX

WE REMEMBER THIS GUY! -- NYT'S KEN VOGEL: "At Private Dinners, Pence Quietly Courts Big Donors and Corporate Executives": "Vice President Mike Pence has been courting scores of the country's most influential donors, corporate executives and conservative political leaders over the past several months in a series of private gatherings and one-on-one conversations.

"The centerpiece of the effort is a string of dinners held every few weeks at the vice president's official residence on the grounds of the Naval Observatory in Washington. Mr. Pence and his wife, Karen, have presided over at least four such soirées, and more are in the works. Each has drawn roughly 30 to 40 guests, including a mix of wealthy donors such as the Chicago hedge fund manager Kenneth C. Griffin and the brokerage firm founder Charles Schwab, as well as Republican fund-raisers and executives from companies like Dow Chemical and the military contractor United Technologies.

"The guests and their families collectively donated or helped raise millions of dollars to support the Trump-Pence ticket in 2016, and some are viewed in Republican finance circles as likely supporters for two new groups created to advocate for Mr. Trump, Mr. Pence, their legislative agenda and congressional allies." http://nyti.ms/2uYs36N

NOT A GOOD SIGN FOR MCCONNELL -- "Why a GOP senator from Trump country opposes the Senate health bill," by Adam Cancryn in Morgantown, West

Virginia: "Shelley Moore Capito is the most popular politician in a deep-red state that loves President Donald Trump and distrusts big government. And yet the West Virginia Republican is threatening to torpedo the GOP's best shot at dismantling Obamacare, one of Trump's top domestic priorities. The first-term senator has emerged as one of the staunchest holdouts against Senate Republicans' bid to overhaul the nation's health care system, voicing concerns about the bill's consequences for older Americans and rejecting swift funding cuts for a Medicaid program that's played a key role in combating her state's opioid epidemic. ...

"But if Capito is feeling the heat in a state that Trump won by more than 42 percentage points, she isn't showing it. Back here in West Virginia, where more than 30 percent of families rely on Medicaid, she doesn't hesitate at the prospect of casting the vote that kills the GOP's repeal effort. 'I only see it through the lens of a vulnerable population who needs help, who I care about very deeply,' the 63-year-old lawmaker said in an interview. 'So that gives me strength. If I have to be that one person, I will be it.'" http://politi.co/2tWpwNG

-- "GOP governors add to pressure on GOP senators on health care," by AP's Alison Noon and Bill Barrow: http://bit.ly/2uETCCN

SPEAKER PAUL RYAN on whether he will hold town halls during a recent news conference in Wisconsin: **Q:** "You had what we are calling 20 town halls which were basically closed affairs for those who weren't affiliated with the company, and I am wondering when you might schedule a fully open town hall for your constituents?"

RYAN: "Yeah. Let me respond to that. Aside from the obvious security concerns, what we have found is there are people who are trying to come in from out of the district to disrupt town hall meetings and not have a civil discussion, so what I have been doing is looking for new and creative ways to interact with my constituents in a civil way. That's why I have done a number of telephone town hall meetings which I find very effective as people don't have to travel. I do office hours. I just did them this morning in Janesville. In addition, I am doing a lot of business ones. I find when you guys are there, people kinda clam up. They get a little nervous, but when [you] do business town halls without media it is very interactive, so I am finding a lot of different ways to have a good civil dialogue with constituents.

"Additionally, if you want to come do office hours, they schedule office hours because I don't want to have a situation where we just have a screaming fest, a shouting fest where people are being bussed in from out of the district to get on TV because they are yelling at somebody. That does nobody any good, and what I want to do is have a civil, good conversation with constituents and that's why I do all these different things whether it's planned tours, telephone town halls, office hours, and the rest."

FIRST IN PLAYBOOK -- DAVID KEITH , who just ran California Democratic Rep. Jimmy Gomez's successful campaign to replace Xavier Becerra, is going to manage

Randy Bryce's campaign against Ryan. He is joining Bill Hyers and Matt McLaughlin, who launched Bryce's campaign with a viral video. http://politi.co/2t1Ou9U

Playbook Reads

PHOTO DU JOUR: A Marine guards cover blows away as President Donald Trump attempts to put it on his head during an arrival at Andrews Air Force Base on July 8. | Evan Vucci/AP Photo

FLASHBACK - A YEAR AGO TODAY: "Trump looks at retired general Flynn as possible running mate," by Reuters' Steve Holland: http://reut.rs/29wz5rM

KNOWING WRAY -- "FBI Nominee Christopher Wray Known as Workhorse Who Eschews Spotlight," by WSJ's Aruna Viswanatha and Del Quentin Wilber: "If fireworks erupt at Wednesday's confirmation hearing for President Donald Trump's pick to be the next FBI director, they aren't likely to be sparked by the nominee, Christopher Wray, a former Justice Department official known as a workhorse who eschews the spotlight. Many current and former FBI agents say that is exactly what the agency needs-someone who focuses on running investigations while leaving politics to others-as the Federal Bureau of Investigation navigates turbulence following the firing of former Director James Comey. Other agents and legal observers wonder if Mr. Wray, who has spent a decade as a defense lawyer, has the gravitas to buck political pressure and chart an independent course for the nation's premier law-enforcement agency." http://on.wsj.com/2uEznW3

****** **A message from Postmates:** Operating in over 200 cities across the United States - Postmates is an innovative, on-demand logistics platform, transforming the way goods move around towns by enabling anyone to have anything delivered to their door step within minutes, and driving over $1B in goods and merchandise across its platform in 2017. https://postmates.com ******

OOPS -- "White House Gaffe Names Xi as President of Taiwan, Not China," by Bloomberg's Peter Martin: A White House release of a transcript "mislabeled Chinese President Xi Jinping as the leader of Taiwan after a much-anticipated meeting at the Group of 20 summit, adding an embarrassment to a record of fraught relations. The apparent error crept into a White House transcript of Trump's remarks before meeting with Xi in Hamburg, Germany, which referred to the president of the Republic of China -- the official name for Taiwan. ... Xi's real title is president of the People's Republic of China, the one-party Communist state set up after Mao Zedong's victory in the Chinese civil war in 1949." https://bloom.bg/2tD6RUA

BONUS GREAT WEEKEND READS, curated by Daniel Lippman:

-- "The Beginning of Now" - This American Life: "Before Donald Trump started his

presidential campaign in 2015, there was a congressional race that redefined what was possible in American politics [the Dave Brat upset of Eric Cantor]. Steve Bannon and Breitbart News got involved in that race early, just like they later got deeply involved in Donald Trump's race. ... What happened in that campaign, what it made it work, and how we got to now." http://bit.ly/2u6iVAU

-- **"Fear of Falling,"** by Greg Child in the Nov. 2000 issue of Outside: "Shot at and kidnapped while scaling Kyrgyzstan's famed Yellow Wall, four Americans learn firsthand how easily the frontier of adventure can bleed into the frontier of survival. Here, in an Outside exclusive, is the full story of six violent days in August." http://bit.ly/2u18Chd (h/t Longform.org)

-- **"U.S. Military Spending: The Cost of Wars,"** by Anthony Cordesman in CSIS - per The Browser's description: "The United States has been at war 'for virtually every year since 1941', and continuously in combat since 2001. But Administration and Congress choose to treat wars as 'a temporary aberration' in accounting terms, to be covered by supplementary or short-term budget categories. This piecemeal funding conceals the vast cost of war-fighting - probably at least $2 trillion since 2001 - and makes it all but impossible to evaluate whether the money has been efficiently and effectively spent." ***With an amazing pic*** http://bit.ly/2sPHTE8

-- **"The Silence of the Lambs,"** by Kathryn Joyce in TNR: "Are Protestants concealing a Catholic-size sexual abuse scandal?" http://bit.ly/2tVLvnz

-- **"The End of Economics,"** by Matt Seybold in the L.A. Review of Books: "Keynes offered crucial justifications for elevating and expanding the roles economic experts play in statecraft. In return, he expected them to abandon their most specious claims to positivism and their providential faith in laissez-faire. His successors welched on their end of this bargain, to put it mildly." http://bit.ly/2tyZJIM

-- **"Why Are There Two Sexes?"** by Pradeep Mutalik in Quanta Magazine: "Asexual reproduction can produce twice as many offspring as sexual reproduction without the hassle of finding and courting a mate. So why do most complex animals have two sexes? Why not three?" http://bit.ly/2tVNYyr

-- **"The Immigration Frontlines,"** by Tony Mecia on the cover of The Weekly Standard: "Seven hours in Riverside tracking down 'bad hombres.'" http://tws.io/2tzweGW

-- **"Nick Kyrgios, the Reluctant Rising Star of Tennis,"** by Louisa Thomas in The New Yorker: "He has been called the most talented player since Roger Federer. But does he even want to win?" http://bit.ly/2sPjm2l

-- **"Children of the Opioid Epidemic Are Flooding Foster Homes. America Is Turning a Blind Eye,"** by Julia Lurie in the July/August issue of Mother Jones - per Longreads' description: "The first casualty of America's opioid epidemic beyond the users themselves? The American family. As mom and dad are nodding out and

overdosing in record numbers, the kids are going into an under-funded foster care system struggling to handle the sheer volume of children who need food, shelter, clothing, and above all, stability." http://bit.ly/2uA6rOU

-- **"How to Sell a Billion-Dollar Myth Like a French Girl,"** by Eliza Brooke in Racked: "The origins and consequences of everyone's favorite Parisian fantasy." http://bit.ly/2szfdLG

-- **"Good Trouble: John Lewis and Andrew Aydin Two Southerners in Action,"** by Alex B. Johnson in the Bitter Southerner: "Congressman John Lewis talks to The Bitter Southerner about his relationship with Andrew Aydin and how it led to the publication of their National Book Award-winning graphic novel, 'March.'" http://bit.ly/2u1pZyI

-- **"On Hyperwar,"** by Ret. Gen. John Allen and Amir Husain in Proceedings Magazine of the U.S. Naval Institute: "Technologies such as computer vision aided by machine-learning algorithms, artificial intelligence (AI)-powered autonomous decision making, advanced sensors, miniaturized high-powered computing capacity deployed at the 'edge,' high-speed networks, offensive and defensive cyber capabilities, and a host of AI-enabled techniques such as autonomous swarming and cognitive analysis of sensor data will be at the heart of this revolution ... [which will minimize] human decision making in the vast majority of processes traditionally required to wage war." http://bit.ly/2uYcY59

-- **"What Happened to America's Public Intellectuals?"** by Elizabeth Mitchell in the July Smithsonian: "Our nation has always depended on these heavyweights to guide us, but are they still with us, and if so, who are they?" http://bit.ly/2uTGKbd

Playbookers

SPOTTED: former Virginia Sen. George Allen, wife and daughter, flying coach yesterday on Virgin Flight 872 from Dallas Love Field to DCA ... DeRay McKesson in Baltimore Penn Station wearing signature vest and a baby blue romper. ***Pic*** http://bit.ly/2tDnhwg

WEEKEND WEDDINGS -- Axios managing editor **BUBBA ATKINSON** and FedEx's **SAMANTHA SMITH** tied the knot Saturday at the Deer Valley, Utah, St. Regis surrounded by friends and family. Pool report: "The couple met in 2015 while Sam was communications director for Gov. Christie's presidential campaign and Bubba was editor-in-chief of IJR. Attendees danced late into the night while Sam took the mic and crushed Montell Jordan's 'This Is How We Do It.'" ***Pics of the couple's first dance*** http://bit.ly/2tCQeZ9 ... http://bit.ly/2u5Xj7L

-- **SPOTTED:** Mike Allen, Rob Saliterman, Lara Crystal, Zeke Miller, Anton Vuljaj, Brittany Bramell and Dan Punaro, Lauren Fritts, Taz Jones and Will Marty, Kenny

Wassus and Claire Esparros, Justin Green, Colin Chocola, Matt Manda and Elise Stefanik, Michael Goldfarb, Tucker Bounds, Garrett and Ashley Marquis, Hallie Williams and John Haley, Alex and Caitlin Conant, Eric Wilson and Rachel Dean, Davis White, Lisa Leonard, Jill Hazelbaker, Devin O'Malley and Amanda Kitchen.

-- Adam Telle, majority clerk on the Homeland Security subcommittee of Senate Approps, and **Shelby Begany**, assistant to SEC Chair Jay Clayton, got married on Saturday in Nashville with a ceremony at a chapel on the Vanderbilt campus. The reception was at the Loveless Café and a private barn. The couple met through Hayley Alexander, former Senate approps staffer now at BIO. ***Pic*** http://bit.ly/2u5OU3W

-- SPOTTED: Hugh Gamble, Nick Owens, Hayley Alexander, Carlisle Clark, Brett Logan, Chris Gaspar, Barry Rhoads, Elizabeth and Ty Mabrey, Mary Martha Henson, Will Todd, Lenwood Brooks, Ryan Welch, Jimmy Stringer, Brian Potts, Tim Wolverton, Nathan Hallford.

-- "Tia Brueggeman, Shazan Jiwa" -- N.Y. Times: "Mrs. Jiwa, 30, is an editorial producer for Ana Cabrera, an anchor at CNN, in Washington. She graduated from Mount Holyoke College and received a master's degree in liberal studies, with a focus in politics, from Duke. ... Mr. Jiwa, 30, is a management and strategy associate in the stocks division at Goldman Sachs. He graduated from Yale and received a master's degree in management studies from Duke. ... The couple met in 2005, when both attended a Model United Nations conference in Philadelphia, but did not begin dating until 2011, when she was in graduate school and he was working in Duke's endowment office." ***With pic*** http://nyti.ms/2tDj8IC

WELCOME TO THE WORLD - Jeff Dressler, Speaker Ryan's national security adviser, and **Shida Dressler** email friends and family: "Wanted to share the exciting news that Lilah Daphne Dressler arrived [Saturday] afternoon. She tipped the scales at 7 pounds, 6 ozs. As you can see, she already has more hair than most middle aged men. Happy to report mother and baby are happy and healthy. We are holding here at Inova for a few days so my responses will likely be delayed." ***Pic*** http://bit.ly/2u6f0UI

-- Hanna Siegel, New American Economy's deputy director, and **Shane Hoffman,** who works on digital for Condé Nast, just welcomed their first child, a daughter named Ansel Eve Hoffman.

BIRTHDAYS: Politico CEO Patrick Steel (hat tips: Robert Allbritton and Alexis Williams) ... Danny Diaz, a founding partner at FP1 Strategies, is 42 (h/t Ryan Williams) ... Sen. Lindsey Graham (R-SC) is 62. He's fresh off an international trip that included spending time with American troops in Afghanistan on July 4 and is celebrating by appearing today on MTP (h/t Scott Farmer) ... AP's Tom Beaumont ... Donald Rumsfeld is 85 ... O.J. is 7-0 ... former Rep. Dave Camp (R-Mich.) is 64 ... former Rep. Scott Garrett (R-N.J.) is 58 ... Drew Hammill, deputy chief of staff for House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (h/t Jesse Ferguson) ... HuffPost's Amanda Terkel ... Jake Fromer ... Patrick Stevenson, principal strategist at Blue State Digital and an HFA alum ... Irene Jay Liu ...

Stephanie Gaskell ... Emma King ... Spencer R. Schecht ... Emma Doyle, chief of staff to OMB director Mick Mulvaney ... Megan Ortiz, VP of The Cohen Group, celebrating by whitewater rafting in Aspen, Colorado (hubby tip: Michael) ...

... Amanda Gonzalez ... Matt Samuels ... Tom Rossmeissl, VP and managing director of Trippi & Associates Kirill Goncharenko, president and a founding partner of Mercury (h/ts Jon Haber) ... NYT's Amy Fiscus ... Elisa Shyu ... Joan VandeHei ... Mike Britt ... Caroline Scullin ... Jerry Russo, a former spokesman and aide to Mayor Bloomberg and a Cuomo alum (h/t Cara Roche) ... Edna Ruano ... Matthew Yurus ... Jean Medina, VP of corporate comms at Exelon ... Nick Rathod ... Robert Higdon ... CNN's Jeff J. Simon ... Amy Hunt of Goldman Sachs ... Qorvis's Jennifer Baskerville ... Mineko Tokito ... Jeff Wexler ... Emily Ethridge ... Elizabeth McMahon ... Doug Badger ... food and wine critic Todd Kliman ... Alex Turner ... Maria (Miller) Lohmeyer ... Donna Dettbarn ... Cathy St. Denis ... Elizabeth McMahon ... Grace McMahon (h/ts Teresa Vilmain) ... Kevin O'Leary ("Shark Tank") is 63 ... Jimmy Smits is 62 ... Tom Hanks is 61 ... Courtney Love is 53 (h/ts AP)

****** **A message from Postmates:** With its fleet of Postmates earning taxable incomes, the capital generated through the mobile application is being reinvested in the economy to do everything from pay down debt, to start a small business, or even enroll in college classes. As On Demand platforms shape the future of work, Postmates applauds legislation aimed at experimenting with portable benefits models, and calls for new federal and local skill-based investments to account for the impact of automation on the workforce. https://postmates.com ******

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From: POLITICO Pro Energy Whiteboard
Sent: Tue 11/14/2017 10:13:56 PM
Subject: House Natural Resources: Puerto Rico utility ignored lawyers' advice in hiring Whitefish Energy

By Ben Lefebvre

11/14/2017 05:12 PM EDT

Puerto Rico's electric utility ignored advice from its own lawyers when it signed a contract with Whitefish Energy in the aftermath of Hurricane Maria, according to documents released ahead of a House Natural Resources Committee hearing today.

Law firm Greenberg Traurig advised Puerto Rico Electric Power Authority to include language in the contract that would cap the amount of money Whitefish Energy could charge, allow PREPA to terminate the agreement for any breach of contract and make Whitefish responsible for paying Puerto Rican taxes, among other requirements. But none were included, the committee said in its summary of the documents.

PREPA last month canceled the $300 million contract with Whitefish, a relatively unknown, two-man operation based in Montana.

Puerto Rico Gov. Ricardo Rossello reiterated to lawmakers that he has launched two investigations into how the contract came about, but Natural Resources Chairman Rob Bishop (R-Utah) said the governor would have to do more if he wants Congress to support his request for disaster assistance.

"You have a credibility gap," Bishop said of PREPA's behavior. "You're asking for $90 billion. Simply telling me you've launched two investigations isn't sufficient."

PREPA Director Ricardo Ramos, who declined to attend the House hearing, told the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee earlier today that he ultimately chose Whitefish Energy because no other companies would work with the bankrupt territory. In response to questions from Ranking Democrat Maria Cantwell (D-Wash.), Ramos said he was not aware of anyone with PREPA receiving kickbacks from the company.

To view online:
https://www.politicopro.com/energy/whiteboard/2017/11/house-natural-resources-puerto-rico-utility-ignored-lawyers-advice-in-hiring-whitefish-energy-095675

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To: Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
From: POLITICO
Sent: Sat 6/17/2017 10:27:24 PM
Subject: BREAKING NEWS: Hospital says Scalise 'more responsive' after additional surgery

Majority Whip Steve Scalise is showing "signs of improvement" and is "speaking with his loved ones" following an additional surgery, according to an update provided by MedStar Washington Hospital Center on Saturday.

The hospital also downgraded his condition from critical to serious.

"Congressman Steve Scalise is in serious condition. He underwent another surgery today, but continues to show signs of improvement," according to a statement from the hospital, courtesy of the Scalise family. "He is more responsive, and is speaking with his loved ones. The Scalise family greatly appreciates the outpouring of thoughts and prayers."

Scalise was shot Wednesday morning during a congressional baseball practice by a gunman who opened fire, injuring multiple people before being shot himself and later dying.

Read more: http://www.politico.com/story/2017/06/17/scalise-in-serious-condition-239670

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Sent: Fri 6/30/2017 11:14:04 AM
Subject: The Morning Headlines from InsideEPA.com -- June 30, 2017

TRUMP'S EPA: Agency at a crossroads -- Complete coverage

June 30, 2017

Latest News

States Hopeful Pruitt Will Back Crucial Grants Despite Proposed FY18 Cuts

Some state officials are hopeful that EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt will support continuing crucial grants to states for monitoring, cleanups, and other programs despite President Donald Trump's proposal to slash the grants in fiscal year 2018, with the officials citing Pruitt's weak defense of the cuts and ongoing agency issuance of the grants.

Democrats Fear Trump ENRD Pick Could Undermine GHG, Other EPA Rules

Democratic lawmakers are strongly criticizing Jeffrey Clark, President Donald Trump's nominee to head the Justice Department's (DOJ) environment division, suggesting his prior antipathy toward climate regulation and his private sector work defending industry clients could drive him to help undermine EPA climate and environmental protections.

The Emerging Debate Over New TSCA Rules: 'Achievable' v. 'Lawful'

The Trump administration's recently unveiled framework rules for implementing key provisions of the new Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) are sparking a debate that suggests different visions for how the law should be implemented in the future with EPA officials saying the rules were crafted to be “achievable,” while agency critics charge they still need to be lawful.

States Prepare To Sue EPA For Delaying Oil & Gas Methane NSPS Controls

A coalition of 15 attorneys general (AGs) lead by New York AG Eric Schneiderman (D) is threatening to sue EPA for unreasonable delay in issuing methane emissions limits for existing oil and gas operations, ratcheting up a confrontation with the Trump EPA as it retreats from Obama-era climate strategies.

Finding No Jurisdiction, 4th Circuit Ends Mandate For EPA 'Jobs' Review

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the 4th Circuit in a unanimous ruling has vacated a lower court's order forcing EPA to conduct a sweeping review of the impact its Clean

Air Act (CAA) rules have had on coal sector employment, saying courts lack jurisdiction to hear suits claiming the agency is violating the law by not performing the review.

Daily Feed

House GOP seeks clarity on Pruitt's 'sue and settle' directive

House Republicans are asking EPA Administrator to clarify his recent comments about issuing a "directive" to limit the agency "ruling by consent order."

D.C. Circuit grants unions role in RMP delay suit

A federal appeals court has granted labor unions' bid to intervene in litigation over the Trump EPA's almost two-year delay of Obama-era revisions to the Risk Management Plan Program.

EPA seeks continued abeyance of CPP suits

EPA submitted court-ordered status reports providing updates on its review of the Clean Power Plan and related new source rule, as the 60-day abeyance period imposed by the court in April expires.

Senate panel postpones EPA enforcement nominee's confirmation vote

Bodine is expected to face Democratic opposition but two bills that will also be considered at the business meeting are likely to win broad bipartisan support.

California high court upholds GHG auction ruling

While the ruling is a win for GHG rule supporters, officials and legislators are still grappling with how to overhaul the state's cap-and-trade program when its expires in 2020.

Ewire: Democrats ready bills to block EPA overhaul

Democrats ready a bill that prohibits any EPA office from being "closed, consolidated, or eliminated" using appropriated funds. Plus, local residents slam EPA's Hudson cleanup decision and Trump officials draw criticisms.

NAHB faults EPA stormwater permit's 'retention' mandates

The National Association of Home Builders' suit over EPA's stormwater permit for New Hampshire will challenge the agency's power to mandate on-site retention.

Read all the latest EPA news, analysis and documents →

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To: Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
From: Bloomberg BNA
Sent: Thur 7/13/2017 12:30:25 AM
Subject: July 12 -- Energy and Climate Report

Energy and Climate Report

July 12, 2017 - Number 133

News

Budget
Appropriations Bill Advances With Cuts for EPA, Interior
A spending bill with cuts for environmental and public lands agencies was approved July 12 by a House subcommittee, over Democratic objections that the cuts were too big.

Budget
Energy Innovation Agency Told to Work on Despite Budget Cuts
The Energy Department's program to invest in innovative energy technologies should keep working even though it's in line for elimination, a House appropriator said.

Climate Policy
Australian States Seek Zero Carbon Emissions Absent Federal Plan
Another Australian state has committed to net-zero greenhouse emissions by 2050, meaning most of the country's economy now operates under that goal despite the absence of a federal policy.

Climate Policy
EU, the Number 20 in G-20, Finds Its Voice as U.S. Waffles
At global summits, national leaders like Donald Trump, Vladimir Putin, Xi Jinping, or Angela Merkel typically get the bulk of the attention. During last week's Group of 20 meeting in Hamburg, a more faceless entity—the European Union—took the lead, especially on trade and climate change.

EPA
Senate Environment Panel Approves EPA Enforcement Nominee
A Senate committee narrowly approved the nomination of Susan Parker Bodine to serve as EPA's assistant administrator for the Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance.

Energy
Bill to Boost Carbon Capture Tax Credit Resurfaces in Senate
The recent collapse of high-profile carbon capture project at Mississippi's Kemper plant isn't deterring Senate lawmakers from pushing forward with a new policy to provide an incentive for that technology.

Energy
Nuclear Regulatory Commission Nominees Clear Senate Panel
Two nominees for the Nuclear Regulatory Commission cleared the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee June 29.

Energy

Trump Picks Banker, Executive as Energy Undersecretaries

President Donald Trump's pick to be the Energy Department's third-ranking official is an energy attorney and executive at an energy company in which billionaire Warren Buffett's Berkshire Hathaway Inc. has a controlling stake.

Fuel Efficiency

Australia Drive for Stricter Fuel Efficiency Angers Automakers

The Australian government is considering a fuel efficiency standard for new light vehicles that has angered the association representing companies including Toyota, Volkswagen and Ford, but pleased climate advocacy groups.

Natural Resources

Utah's National Monument Stance Sends Trade Show to Colorado

Utah's perceived hostile stance against federal public lands designation spurred The North Face, Patagonia, REI and other outdoors recreation companies to urge a retailer association to move three major trade shows from Salt Lake City to Denver, an officer for The North Face told Bloomberg BNA.

Oil & Gas

Billion-Barrel Mexican Find Could Spur Rush on Next Oil Auctions

A billion-barrel crude discovery in Mexico could be just the lure the country badly needs to boost investment from oil majors as it lacks the wherewithal to reverse years of sagging output.

Renewable Energy

Solar Power Gets $46 Million Boost From Energy Department

The Energy Department awarded $46.2 million in research grants to improve solar energy technologies and reduce costs to 3 cents per kilowatt-hour by 2030.

Vehicle Fuels

Markup on Ethanol Boost Could Come Before August Recess

A committee vote on legislation to boost ethanol sales could take place before the August recess, a spokeswoman for Sen. Chuck Grassley (R-Iowa), the chief ethanol proponent in the Senate, told Bloomberg BNA.

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Energy and Climate Report

To: Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
From: Bloomberg BNA
Sent: Wed 6/28/2017 1:22:37 PM
Subject: June 28 -- EHS State Regulatory Alert



EHS State Regulatory Alert

June 28, 2017 - Number 123

You can create a report customized by topic, jurisdiction, and date range by using the Regulatory Summaries Report Tool. The report can be generated in Excel, Word, or PDF.

Arkansas

OIL AND GAS INDUSTRY
Gas Pipeline Code
Arkansas OIL AND GAS INDUSTRY

Final rule of the Public Service Commission, Pipeline Safety Section, amends regulations regarding the gas pipeline code for the design, construction, operation, inspection, and maintenance of natural gas systems. The rule incorporates 2015 amendments to federal pipeline safety standards under 49 CFR 191, 192, 193, and 199 regarding annual reports and incident reports, minimum safety standards for natural and other gas pipelines, liquefied natural gas facilities, and drug and alcohol testing. The rule also makes technical revisions. The rule is effective May 19, 2017. Contact: Mary Loos; PSC; 501-682-5782

—Arkansas Register (06/26/2017)

Regulatory Update

Colorado

AIR
Control of Hazardous Air Pollutants
Colorado AIR

Final rule of the Department of Public Health and Environment, Air Quality Control Commission, amends regulations under 5 CCR 1001-10, Regulation 8, Parts A and E, regarding hazardous air pollutants emission standards and maximum achievable control technology. The rule incorporates by reference amendments to federal standards under 40 CFR 61 and 63, as of July 1, 2016. The rule also incorporates by reference July 13, 2016, amendments to standards for petroleum refineries; July 25, 2016, amendments to standards for Portland cement manufacturing; and Aug. 3, 2016, amendments to standards for aerospace manufacturing and

rework facilities. The rule is effective July 15, 2017. Contact: Sean Hackett; DPHE; 303-692-3131; sean.hackett@state.co.us

—Colorado Register (06/25/2017)

Regulatory Update

AIR
Standards of Performance for New Stationary Sources
Colorado AIR

Final rule of the Department of Public Health and Environment, Air Quality Control Commission, amends regulations under 5 CCR 1001-8, Regulation 6, Part A, regarding standards of performance for new stationary sources. The rule incorporates by reference amendments to federal new source performance standards under 40 CFR 60, as of July 1, 2016. The rule also incorporates by reference July 13, 2016, amendments to performance standards for certain petroleum refineries and July 7, 2016, amendments to new source performance specifications. In addition, the rule specifies emissions guidelines and compliance times under Clean Air Act 111(d) plans for hospital/medical/infectious waste incinerators, municipal solid waste landfills, and commercial and industrial solid waste incineration units. The rule is effective July 15, 2017. Contact: Sean Hackett; DPHE; 303-692-3131; sean.hackett@state.co.us

—Colorado Register (06/25/2017)

Regulatory Update

WATER
Water Quality/Temperature Criteria Methodology
Colorado WATER

Notice of the Department of Public Health and Environment, Water Quality Control Commission, announces a hearing on a proposed extension of the expiration date of the commission's Policy 06-01 regarding temperature criteria methodology. The policy, which currently expires June 30, 2017, describes the commission's methodology and rationale for developing water temperature criteria and standards for the protection of aquatic life in surface waters, including acute and chronic criteria and protection for sensitive life stages and from thermal shock. The hearing is scheduled for Aug. 7, 2017, in Denver. Comments are due July 26, 2017. Contact: Nancy Horan; DPHE, Water Quality Control Commission; 303-692-3463; cdphe.wqcc@state.co.us

—Colorado Register (06/25/2017)

Regulatory Update

Illinois

RADIATION
Radiochemistry Laboratories
Illinois RADIATION

Proposed rule of the Emergency Management Agency repeals regulations under 32 IAC 406.10 through .280 regarding certification and operation of radiochemistry laboratories. The rule deletes provisions concerning certification; changes in ownership or operations; subcontracting; liability; performance evaluation samples; and hearing, decision, and appeals. The rule also deletes provisions concerning reciprocity agreements; personnel; laboratory standards and practices; analytical methodology; sample collection, handling, and preservation; quality assurance; record maintenance; and action response to results. The agency no longer maintains a laboratory certified to test drinking water supplies or qualified personnel to audit or certify other labs performing such analyses. Comments are due Aug. 7, 2017. Contact: Traci Burton; EMA; 217-785-9860

—Illinois Register (06/23/2017)

Regulatory Update

WATER
Analytical Testing of Community Drinking Water Supply Samples for Radionuclides
Illinois WATER

Proposed rule of the Emergency Management Agency repeals regulations under 32 IAC 336.10 through .80 regarding fees for analytical testing of community drinking water supply samples for radionuclides. The rule deletes provisions concerning requests for testing services, payment of fees, community water supply testing categories, testing fees, and sampling points for existing community water supplies. The agency's statutory authority to provide the services was repealed in 2015. Comments are due Aug. 7, 2017. Contact: Traci Burton; EMA; 217-785-9860

—Illinois Register (06/23/2017)

Regulatory Update

Minnesota

WATER
Water Quality/Permit Fees and SSTS Credentialing and Product Registration
Minnesota WATER

Notice announces the intention of the Pollution Control Agency, Municipal Division, to amend regulations under MNR 7002 and 7083 regarding water quality permit fees and subsurface sewage treatment systems (SSTS) credentialing and product registration. The rule increases permit application fees and annual fees for municipal and industrial wastewater permits, noncontact cooling water permits, stormwater permits, feedlot permits, septic systems, environmental review, variances, and laboratories associated with water quality. A hearing is scheduled for July 24, 2017, via video conference in numerous locations. Comments are due Aug. 14, 2017. Contact: Mary Lynn; PCA; 651-757-2439; mary.lynn@state.mn.us

—Minnesota State Register (06/26/2017)

Regulatory Update

Ohio

WATER
Water Quality Standards/Central Ohio Tributaries Drainage Basin
Ohio WATER

Final rule of the Ohio EPA rescinds and readopts regulations under OAC 3745-1-13 concerning water quality standards for the central Ohio tributaries drainage basin. The rule updates beneficial use designations for specific water bodies, including aquatic life use designations, and adds water bodies that are currently undesignated. The rule is effective Sept. 18, 2017. Contact: Melinda Harris; OEPA; 614-728-1357; melinda.harris@epa.ohio.gov

—Ohio Regulations (06/26/2017)

Regulatory Update

Rhode Island

GENERAL ENVIRONMENT AND SAFETY
Administrative Inspections Guidelines
Rhode Island GENERAL ENVIRONMENT AND SAFETY

Proposed direct final rule of the Department of Environmental Management repeals regulations regarding guidelines for administrative inspections by employees of the department. The rule specifies that the guidelines are obsolete. The rule is effective July 27, 2017, if no objections are received by that date. Contact: Sarah Gousie; DEM, Office of Legal Services; 401-222-6607; sarah.gousie@dem.ri.gov

—Rhode Island Regulations (06/26/2017)

Regulatory Update

South Carolina

HAZARDOUS WASTE CLEANUP
Former Singer Co. Site Voluntary Cleanup Contract
South Carolina HAZARDOUS WASTE CLEANUP

Notice announces the intention of the Department of Health and Environmental Control to enter into a voluntary cleanup contract with One World Technologies Inc. relating to the Former Singer Co. site in Pickens. The notice specifies that One World will reimburse the department $29,148 for

past response costs and for future costs associated with oversight of response work. The notice also specifies that One World will fund and a remedial investigation to evaluate the source, nature, and extent of release of hazardous substances, pollutants, or contaminants, and to evaluate the effectiveness of the removal, injection pilot study, and continued operation of the groundwater pump and treat system. Comments are due July 24, 2017. Contact: David Wilkie; DHEC, Bureau of Land and Waste Management; 803-898-0882; wilkietd@dhec.sc.gov

—South Carolina State Register (06/23/2017)

Regulatory Update

OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH
Occupational Safety and Health Regulations
South Carolina OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH

Final rule of the Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation, Office of Occupational Safety and Health, amends regulations under Chapter 71, Article 1, Subarticles 6 and 7, to incorporate by reference Jan. 9, 2017, amendments to federal general industry and construction standards under 29 CFR 1910.1000, 1910.1024, 1926.55, and 1926.1153 regarding occupational exposure to beryllium and beryllium compounds. The rule is effective June 23, 2017. Contact: DLLR, OSHA Standards Office; 803-896-5811

—South Carolina State Register (06/23/2017)

Regulatory Update

West Virginia

SOLID WASTE
Disposal of Completion Waste
West Virginia SOLID WASTE

Final rule of the Department of Environmental Protection adopts regulations under 33 WVCSR 1A regarding disposal of completion waste. The rule establishes a solid waste landfill permit modification process for drill cuttings and associated drilling waste as a special waste and establishes requirements for the cell construction, liner system, and radiation monitoring. The rule also establishes waste profiling requirements and clarifies the requirements for a completed radiation monitoring plan. In addition, the rule specifies procedures for managing completion waste and that it is the secretary's discretion to require additional daily cover, in excess of the daily cover required by the solid waste management rule under 33 WVCSR 01. The rule is effective Aug. 1, 2017. Contact: Sudhir Patel; DEP; 304-926-0499; Sudhir.D.Patel@wv.gov

—West Virginia Register (06/25/2017)

Regulatory Update

Wisconsin

AIR

SIP Revision/Sheboygan County Ozone Attainment Plan

Wisconsin AIR

Notice of the Department of Natural Resources announces the submission of a report to the legislature describing a proposed revision to the state implementation plan (SIP) regarding the attainment plan for the Sheboygan County 2008 ozone nonattainment area. The agency intends to submit the SIP revision to the EPA for approval. A comment due date is not specified. Contact: Angie Dickens; DNR; 608-264-8861; Angela.Dickens@wisconsin.gov

—Wisconsin Administrative Register (06/26/2017)

Regulatory Update

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EHS State Regulatory Alert

To: Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
From: Bloomberg BNA Environment & Energy
Sent: Tue 11/14/2017 9:45:34 PM
Subject: Environment & Energy Report Highlights

Environment & Energy
Tuesday, November 14, 2017

Highlights

Leading the News

Halting Weak Climate Rules for Poorer Nations Top U.S. Priority

By *Dean Scott*

Resisting efforts by China and other developing nations to get separate, less stringent rules for reporting and verifying their greenhouse gas emissions and the steps they will take to meet those goals under the 2015 Paris agreement is the priority for the U.S. at the Bonn climate talks, a White House official said.

Tested EPA Air Chief to Advance Trump Rollbacks

By *Abby Smith*

EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt may have just received the most important tool to implement his rollback agenda: the EPA's new air chief Bill Wehrum.

Two Extra Years Sought to Assess Pesticides' Effect on Species

By *Tiffany Stecker*

The Trump administration is asking a federal court to extend by two years a deadline to complete assessments on the effects of three pesticides on endangered or threatened species.

Today's News

Microsoft Sets New Carbon Target to Help Meet Paris Climate Deal

By *Jessica Shankleman*

Microsoft Corp. joined a growing number of companies pledging to curb their emissions in line with the international efforts to keep global warming to no more than 2 degrees Celsius.

Top U.S. Climate Negotiator Won't Attend Bonn Summit (Corrected)

By *Dean Scott*

State Department diplomat Tom Shannon, who was to head the climate talks for the U.S. in Bonn, won't attend the gathering.

Puerto Rico's Other No-Bid Contractor Says Its No Whitefish

By Daniel Flatley

Even though it's best known for fracking and only been in the business of restoring downed power lines for a few months, Mammoth Energy Services Inc. got a no-bid, $187 million contract to restore electricity to hurricane-ravaged Puerto Rico.

Puerto Rico Utility Admits Mistakes in No-Bid Energy Contracts

By Daniel Flatley

Puerto Rico's utility acknowledged that it made some missteps in issuing contracts to help it rebuild its grid, even as it defended its choice of two untested companies to lead the effort.

Puerto Rico to Boost Wind, Solar to Bolster Grid, Rossello Says

By Daniel Flatley

Puerto Rico should boost its use of wind and solar electricity to provide for as much as 25 percent of the island's electricity, its governor said Nov. 14.

Puerto Rico's Utility Opted Out of Mutual Aid for

Whitefish Deal

By *Rebecca Kern*

Puerto Rico's utility opted out of mutual assistance from the U.S. association of publicly-owned utilities in lieu of the $300 million contract with Whitefish Energy Holdings LLC, according to company documents released by a House committee late Nov. 13.

U.K., Germany to Provide $153 Million to Protect Brazil Forests

By *Vanessa Dezem*

The U.K. and Germany will provide about 130 million euros ($153 million) to help Brazil reduce deforestation and protect the health of forests.

Utilities Pour Salt on Miners' Wounds as Uranium Supplies Swell

By *Ben Sharples*

Power producers across the world have stockpiled enough uranium to fuel their reactors for more than four years, adding to pain faced by miners who are cutting output amid weak prices.

Washington Aquaculture Co. Sued Over Escaped Atlantic Salmon

By *Paul Shukovsky*

A conservation organization is seeking a civil penalty of up to $52,414 for each of the approximately 305,000 Atlantic salmon that escaped in August from a collapsed Cooke Aquaculture Pacific LLC net pen into Puget Sound.

China's Long-Range Plans Start to Shake Out in Chemicals Industry

By *Michael Standaert*

China's efforts to consolidate nearly 300,000 small chemical producers and assume more environmental, health, and safety oversight of their chemical operations and enforcement could take five to 10 years to play out, a top official said.

China's Looming Carbon Market Still Largely a Mystery

By *Michael Standaert*

China says it is on the cusp of launching what would in time become the world's largest carbon-emissions trading system, but it has yet to share much information about exactly how the system would work.

With Arctic Drilling Under Attack, Norway Oil Minister Hits Back

By *Mikael Holter*

The man overseeing western Europe's biggest crude spigot is fighting back

against the oil doubters.

Saudi Arabia Plans Region's Largest Farm Waste Processing Plant

By *Matthew Kalman*

A plant that will transform 500,000 tons of date palm and agricultural waste into 300,000 tons of organically-based petrochemical products like biofuels annually is part of Saudi Arabia's plan to diversify its economy and modernize its farms.

Taiwan Extends Tax Waiver to Boost Electric Vehicle Purchases

By Yu-Tzu Chiu

Taiwan hopes to put more electric vehicles on its roads by extending through 2021 tax incentives set to expire next year.

China Plans Renewable-Energy Quota System to Ease Idle Capacity

By *Feifei Shen*

China is introducing a clean-energy quota system to enforce provincial targets and ease its idle-capacity problem.

Add to Job Demands List: Paid Vacation for Extreme Weather

By Rebecca Greenfield

Even the workplace has to adapt to the warming world. As climate change creates more intense storms, companies have started preparing for work disruptions due to extreme weather.

Coal to Cow Pies: BMW Pledges 100 Percent Renewable Power

By *Brian Parkin* and *Elisabeth Behrmann*

BMW AG 's plan to switch exclusively to green electricity finds it tapping some unusual power sources—including a South African biomass plant that runs on cow dung and chicken droppings.

China Could Consider Resuming New Electric Car Permits

By *Tian Ying, Keith Zhai* and *Yan Zhang*

China's government is considering a resumption of new permits to make electric vehicles as early as the first half of 2018, a move that would clear the way for Ford Motor Co. and Tesla Inc. as well as a string of local manufacturers to start production, people with knowledge of the matter said.

Amazon Plays Catch-Up in Push to Police Chemicals in Products

By Lauren Coleman-Lochner

Amazon.com Inc. is developing a plan to regulate the chemicals used by suppliers, but it still lags Wal-Mart Stores Inc., Target Corp. and other retailers in

the push for greener products.

EPA Grant Recipients Ban Unlikely to Catch Courts' Eye

By *Sylvia Carignan*

Challenges to EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt's decision to ban grant recipients from advisory boards may get little traction in courts wary of defining the advice federal agencies seek.

Safety Board Weighs Dropping Offshore Oil Rig Safety

Efforts

By *Sam Pearson*

The U.S. Chemical Safety Board is set to decide Nov. 14 if it's worth it to keep pushing a recommendation for more worker participation in safety issues at offshore oil platforms.

Cheap Battery Forecasts Kill India's Long-Term Power Deals

By Anindya Upadhyay

India’s power distributors are balking at traditional 25-year thermal-power purchase contracts, avoiding lengthy entanglements so they can benefit as costs for batteries and renewable energy slide. Now in vogue: agreements that last 10 years or even less.

Monday Night Wrapup

Brazil Fast-Tracks Biodiesel Blend Hike

By *Michael Kepp*

Brazil will hike the amount of biofuel allowed in its diesel from 8 percent to 10 percent one year ahead of schedule to help cut carbon emissions, the National Energy Policy Council said.

U.S. Pullout From Paris Agreement Won't Spur Coal Comeback: IEA

By *Rick Mitchell*

President Donald Trump's decision to pull the U.S. out of the Paris climate pact is unlikely to spur a "comeback by coal," or to have a big impact on global carbon dioxide emissions until after 2025, an International Energy Agency official said.

Renewables Set to Grab More of Energy Market as Costs Plunge

By Anna Hirtenstein

Renewable forms of energy, such as wind and solar, are likely to grab a bigger share of the market in the coming decades, generating more electricity than coal by 2040.

Future of Natural Gas Looks Golden Again Thanks to China Smog

By Kelly Gilblom

Natural gas is set to pull away from its more polluting siblings, oil and coal.

China Is Over Coal and Bored With Oil as It Charts Energy Future

By *Dan Murtaugh*

The world's worst polluter is leading the clean energy revolution, according to the International Energy Agency.

Ivory Coast Won't Uproot Illegal Cocoa Farms for Five Years

By *Baudelaire Mieu*

Ivory Coast, the world's largest cocoa producer, won't be able to uproot cocoa plantations illegally planted in protected forests and national parks for at least five years, the forestry minister said.

Deadly Air Pollution Confronts Nuclear-Armed Rivals

By *Chris Kay* and *Iain Marlow*

From his office in the smog shrouded city of Lahore, environment official Saif Anjum pores over reams of pollution data and lists the actions being taken by Pakistan's largest province to combat the toxic air. He said they have arrested hundreds of crop-burning farmers and closed construction sites and industrial furnaces.

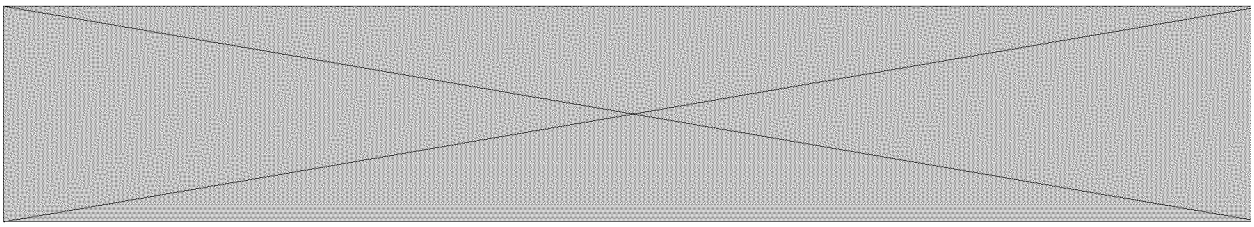
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To: Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
From: American Enterprise Institute
Sent: Fri 6/30/2017 10:09:09 AM
Subject: AEI Today: Has America ever had a true conservative tradition?

. Has America ever had a true conservative tradition?



AEI's daily publication of independent research, insightful analysis, and scholarly debate

Reuters

Has America ever had a true conservative tradition?

James Pethokoukis | AEIdeas

Many people claim that President Trump is no true conservative. But unlike other political persuasions, conservatism has never benefited from a singular, clear-cut ideology. AEI's James Pethokoukis asked Notre Dame's Patrick Deneen to parse out what that means for the future of the movement. The irony, says Deneen, is that the American right has fought to conserve something that wasn't very conservative in the first place.

Reuters

As two presidents meet, the clock ticks on North Korea

Dan Blumenthal | AEIdeas

South Korean President Moon Jae-in has to make a series of complex calculations in his first meeting with President Trump. The US administration is far along in employing its North Korea policy, which combines pressure against the Kim family with the threat of greater military coercion. South Korea has been a participant in most of these efforts, but President Moon was elected as a progressive. That makes things complicated.

Reuters

Testimony: The Fed's credibility problem on Main Street

Paul H. Kupiec | Testimony before the House Financial Services Committee

The Federal Reserve is undoubtedly the most powerful independent agency in government. The decisions of the Federal Reserve Board and the Federal Reserve's open market committee have important implications for the lives of every American. Congress, understandably, has been timid historically to exercise much oversight of the institution. That needs to change.

Reuters

Draining the swamp, or just adjusting the temperature setting?

Thomas P. Miller | AEIdeas

Even if the Senate's next version of health care reform has a Lazarus-like recovery after the July Fourth recess, further tactical gains remain

unlikely. Like it or not, we're ticketed for a long stretch in the purgatory of our poorly performing "mixed" system of public and private buck-passing. Might as well settle in and make some real repairs, rather than adding another layer of wallpaper. It's time for Congress to rethink before reloading.

More from AEI

Turkey today has a veneer of stability, but it's rotten underneath
Michael Rubin | National Review

The $990 million federal work-study program may 'work,' but the debate is rigged

Jason D. Delisle | US News & World Report

Fed boss Janet Yellen's financial crisis prediction shows shades of Neville Chamberlain

Desmond Lachman | Real Clear Markets

Public opinion study: American patriotism, then and now

Karlyn Bowman and Eleanor O'Neil | AEI

The Child Tax Credit isn't enough to help working families. Congress should listen to the president on this one.

Angela Rachidi | The Hill

AEI in the news: For US companies, the bottom line beats the president's bully pulpit

Mitchell Hartman featuring Michael Strain | "Marketplace" podcast

America's relationship with South Korea makes it a target for the Kim regime

Michael Auslin | The Atlantic

The Senate Republican health care bill is a liberal's caricature of conservatism
Marc A. Thiessen | The Washington Post

After Brexit, trade liberalization will be messy. It always is.
Dalibor Rohac | The Conservative

President Trump is getting closer to capturing his first high-value terrorist
Marc A. Thiessen | AEIdeas

By mishandling austerity, Puerto Rico is following in Greece's footsteps toward economic misery
Desmond Lachman | The Hill

As headlines out of Syria grow more alarming, the US needs a post-ISIS strategy
John R. Bolton | The Wall Street Journal [paywall]

Watch: How the FDA's costly regulatory regime could deter 37 million smokers from making a lifesaving switch
Sally Satel, Stan Veuger, and Alan D. Viard | AEI event video

NAFTA negotiations offer a big opportunity on e-commerce
Claude Barfield | TechPolicyDaily.com

There are no easy answers on Yemen's cholera outbreak
Roger Bate | AEIdeas

Watch: Does government cash drive medical innovation?
Thomas Peter Stossel | AEI event video

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To: Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
From: POLITICO
Sent: Sat 6/17/2017 4:19:33 PM
Subject: ORAL HISTORY: 'Somebody's trying to kill me'

More than a dozen people, including members of Congress and a photographer, share the terrifying moments when a gunman attacked a Republican congressional baseball practice at a ball field in Northern Virginia earlier this week.

Speaking with candor and bracing detail, they offer first-hand accounts of one of the most frightening days of their lives.

Read their full accounts here.

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From: Joe Pompeo - POLITICO Media
Sent: Fri 6/30/2017 9:53:19 AM
Subject: Morning Media: WSJ's Trump-Russia talker — The case against the CNN firings — Cold water on Heat Street

By Joe Pompeo | 06/30/2017 05:51 AM EDT

With Cristiano Lima and Alex Weprin

DRIP, DRIP... As I documented in a big feature a couple weeks ago, The New York Times and The Washington Post have been at the forefront of the head-turning newsbreaks regarding investigations into whether Team Trump colluded with Russia in the 2016 election. Last night, however, it was neither the Times nor the Post, but rather The Wall Street Journal that was turning heads with a big Twitter talker about the potential Trump-Russia connection:

Before the 2016 presidential election, a longtime Republican opposition researcher mounted an independent campaign to obtain emails he believed were stolen from Hillary Clinton's private server, likely by Russian hackers.

In conversations with members of his circle and with others he tried to recruit to help him, the GOP operative, Peter W. Smith, implied he was working with retired Lt. Gen. Mike Flynn, at the time a senior adviser to then-candidate Donald Trump.

[...]

Emails written by Mr. Smith and one of his associates show that his small group considered Mr. Flynn and his consulting company, Flynn Intel Group, to be allies in their quest.

What role, if any, Mr. Flynn may have played in Mr. Smith's project is unclear. In an interview with The Wall Street Journal, Mr. Smith said he knew Mr. Flynn, but he never stated that Mr. Flynn was involved.

Oh by the way: "Mr. Smith died at age 81 on May 14, which was about 10 days after the Journal interviewed him. His account of the email search is believed to be his only public comment on it."

Josh Marshall: "The Journal piece raises far more questions than it answers. ... Why did Smith talk to the Journal? ... why is the story appearing almost two months after the interview? ... if Russia had some angle with Trump, why would they operate through this rando? ... how did smith die? To be clear, these are not questions that raise doubts about the article. There [sic] just a few of the questions the article raises and which the article doesn't explicitly address."

Chris Hayes: "A very big deal: First reported evidence of *actual* attempts at collusion with Russian hackers by Trump allies." **Susan Hennessy**: "This is actually a very big deal. It's the first concrete allegation of Trump team collusion."

TIPS AND COMMENTS: jpompeo@politico.com / @joepompeo. **Morning Media** is edited by **Alex Weprin** (@alexweprin / aweprin@politico.com) and produced with writing/reporting help from **Cristiano Lima**. (clima@politico.com / @ludacristiano). **Archives**. **Subscribe.**

PROGRAMMING NOTE - We'll be back on Wednesday, July 5. Have a nice long weekend and enjoy the fireworks.

YOU'LL WANNA TUNE INTO 'MORNING JOE' - According to Page Six: "The hosts ... delayed their vacation plans so they can return to the air ... and fire back at President Trump's Twitter attack. 'Joe and Mika were supposed to start their July 4th weekend early by taking Friday off -- but following Trump's tweet, they postponed their trip by [a] day so they can be back on air Friday morning to sling some 'bad blood' back at Trump,' an MSNBC source told The Post."

WAS GRETA VAN SUSTEREN BLINDSIDED? Based on how her MSNBC firing unfolded yesterday, it would *seem* that way? Her husband/agent told CNN she'd found out earlier in the day, and he added to the Times, "We're in kind of shock." Precisely one minute after Vanity Fair broke the news at 3:48 p.m., Van Susteren tweeted at 3:49, "I am out at MSNBC." An MSNBC executive told our own Hadas Gold that the split was "amicable," saying the network had tried to boost the 6 p.m. show Van Susteren kicked off in January following her exit from Fox News, but that the numbers "weren't there." Van Susteren's loss is Ari Melber's gain: The 30-something up-and-comer will now cut a bigger figure at MSNBC as her replacement.

MEANWHILE, AT CBS NEWS - President David Rhodes acknowledged during a staff meeting yesterday morning that the messy handling of Scott Pelley's "Evening News" ouster hurt the network. "I'm concerned about it," he said, according to CBS source who dished to Jeremy Barr of The Hollywood Reporter. "Transitions are difficult. We've had some very smooth ones while I've been here, and this one wasn't one of the smoothest. And I'm concerned about that. It didn't go the way that I wanted it to go."

MUST READS:

-- "The Future Of Coal Country" [The New Yorker]

-- "Present at the Destruction: How Rex Tillerson Is Wrecking the State Department" [POLITICO Mag]

-- "The Devil's Henchmen" [The Atavist]

-- "The Tiny Satellites Ushering in the New Space Revolution" [Bloomberg Businessweek]

-- "Game of Thrones: How They Make the World's Most Popular Show" [Time]

THE SIDE OF BRET STEPHENS NYT READERS CAN GET DOWN WITH - "Of those from whom little is expected, much is forgiven. And of those from whom much is expected, little is forgiven. Such are the standards by which Donald Trump's deliberate assaults on the news

media need to be understood and feared. ... [I]t was a mistake of CNN to let the three journalists ... responsible for the Scaramucci story go. The political success of Trump's assault on the press depends on his conflation of mistakes with dishonesty, of fallibility with fakery. ... [T]he news media ought to take care not to underestimate the threat it faces from this White House. We have set ourselves up as guardians of Truth ... On the other side is a president who believes in none of this ... How do you shame the shameless? You can't. But you can at least deny him the right to shame you." More: "The President Versus 'Fake News,' Again"

Similar sentiment from Jack Shafer: "In hindsight, it's easy to say CNN shouldn't have gone with such a flimsy, improperly vetted story. Unfortunately, journalism isn't a hindsight business. Journalism happens in real time, against a deadline clock, and in a competitive atmosphere. Only ombudsmen, press critics and libel attorneys get to second-guess what they do. ... I must defend honest journalists who have screwed up (as I've screwed up). 'If you say you haven't screwed up, you're lying.'" More: "Should Journalists Have the Right to Be Wrong?"

FAREWELL, HEAT STREET. WE HARDLY KNEW YA! BuzzFeed's Steven Perlberg reported last night that the conservative digital news website owned by Rupert Murdoch's News Corp. will cease to exist as a standalone publication come August, when it is to be folded into the financial web publication MarketWatch. The site was originally led by former British MP Louise Mensch, and News Corp. boasted about its early traffic gains. But Mensch left early this year -- ostensibly to work on a new project for News Corp (a company insider had told me months ago she was "interested in doing a soccer website" that would tie-in with a soccer-related News Corp. product abroad) -- and went on to become Twitter's most prolific Trump-Russia sleuth. Then earlier this month, Mensch's successor, Noah Kotch, left to run Fox News Digital over at News Corp's sister company. As BuzzFeed reports, Murdoch "pushed" for Fox News to acquire Heat Street, but "Fox didn't want to take on the property, in part because Mensch's recent Twitter crusade. ... Ultimately, Heat Street was left twisting in the wind at News Corp." And, apparently, that was that.

SOUND BITES:

-- "This ... adds up to the most dangerous denigration of media since ... Nixon? Did Nixon attack six great news organizations by name in 24 hours?" [Mike Allen]

-- "Sarah Huckabee Sanders, um, I wonder if she knows what she's saying when she says something of the things that she says.' [Katy Tur]

-- "You have sat here and talked about your family from this podium, are you going to tell your kids this behavior is okay?" [Hallie Jackson]

-- "RT if a copy editor has saved you from a mortifying error. Like if you're you're a copy editor and you've got a better way to phrase this." [Rebecca Keegan]

A FAKE NEWS BUTTON FOR TWITTER? via WaPo: "Twitter is exploring adding a feature that would let users flag tweets that contain misleading, false or harmful information, according to two people familiar with the company's projects. The feature, which is still in a

prototype phase and may never be released, is part of the company's uphill battle against rampant abuse on its platform. It could look like a tiny tab appearing in a drop-down menu alongside tweets, according to the people, who spoke on the condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to release details of the effort."

REVOLVING DOOR: HuffPost named a new editor in chief for its U.K. edition yesterday. Per the announced, Polly Curtis "will be responsible for all editorial output and standards, overseeing a team of editors and staff writers as well as the UK site's blog platform. ... Polly joins HuffPost from the British Red Cross where she was Director of Media ... Previously, Polly held a number of positions at Guardian News and Media including Digital Editor."

SOUNDTRACK: Roxy Music, "Love is the Drug"

EXTRAS:

-- The "long and ugly history" of Donald Trump's relationship with Joe and Mika. [WaPo]

-- Scenes from yesterday's copy-editor walkout at The New York Times. [HuffPost]

-- "MTV News: The Good, the Bad, and the Contradictions of an Ill-Fated Experiment" [Spin]

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September 13, 2017

Today on Climate Beat . . .

. . . we went up in smoke, reporting that House energy panel Chairman Greg Walden (R-OR) is reiterating calls to improve federal land management policy to allow logging and clearance of combustible material from federal lands, saying it would help to reduce air pollution and greenhouse gases that spike during wildfires.

In court, the Department of Justice (DOJ) is renewing its call for the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 9th Circuit to halt a landmark climate change lawsuit slated to proceed at a lower court by arguing in a final reply brief that youth plaintiffs lack standing, a shift in argument from its initial appeal that focused on burdensome discovery requests.

We also highlighted some quotable material from EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt, who shows in a recent interview that is not shy about taking on his critics, starting with former President Barack Obama and his administration and followed closely by one of his Republican predecessors -- former EPA Administrator Christine Todd Whitman.

And our daily news roundup looked at a planned breakfast between a White House economic adviser and top climate change diplomats, despite the administration's high-profile rejection of the Paris Agreement.

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From: InsideEPA.com
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Subject: The Morning Headlines from InsideEPA.com -- June 28, 2017

TRUMP'S EPA: Agency at a crossroads -- Complete coverage

June 28, 2017

Latest News

EPA Touts Deference To States In Rule To Repeal CWA Jurisdiction Policy

EPA and the Army Corps of Engineers' proposed rule to repeal the Obama administration's Clean Water Act (CWA) jurisdiction policy and reinstate George W. Bush-era standards for determining the law's scope are signaling that they will invoke deference to states' authority over waters in a pending rule to create a new jurisdiction standard.

As EPA Hones Focus, GOP Senator Floats Roadmap For Superfund Reform

As EPA is taking steps to hone the focus of Administrator Scott Pruitt's Superfund reform effort, Sen. Steve Daines (R-MT) is offering an outline of recommendations for improving the program's implementation, including limiting the use of the National Priorities List (NPL), prioritizing the program for funding and revising metrics for determining cleanup success.

Senators Echo House On Need to Boost EPA Budget But Cuts Still Expected

Senate appropriators are echoing their House counterparts in objecting to the scale of proposed cuts in the Trump administration's proposed budget cuts for EPA in fiscal year 2018 and sending signals that they are likely to restore funding to popular agency programs.

EPA Said To Eye Former State Officials For Water, General Counsel Slots

EPA is said to be considering two former state environment officials for top slots leading its water and general counsel's office: Matthew Z. Leopold, a former Florida official for the general counsel spot, and David Ross, a former Wisconsin official to head the water office, sources say.

States, Environmentalists Fault EPA Over Secrecy With Ozone 'Task Force'

Some states and environmentalists are faulting EPA's secrecy over the work of its internal “task force” crafting a report to Congress on how to ease implementation of agency ozone standards, with states saying they are excluded from the effort and

environmentalists fearing that the report will lead to weakening of the standards.

Trump EPA Moves Spur Environmentalists' Fears Of Weaker Ozone NAAQS

The Trump EPA's recent moves on ozone national ambient air quality standards (NAAQS) -- including a one year delay for implementation of the 2015 ozone limit -- are spurring environmentalists' and public health groups' fears that the agency is moving toward either weakening the standard or softening implementation requirements.

DOJ Defends CRA In Request To Dismiss Suit Over Law's Constitutionality

The Department of Justice (DOJ) is asking a federal district court to reject environmentalists' suit that claims the Congressional Review Act (CRA) is unconstitutional, with DOJ arguing that the law is valid and courts lack power to assess whether it was properly applied this year when Congress overturned 13 Obama-era regulations.

Daily Feed

EPA sends NO2 NAAQS proposal for OMB review

EPA sent its proposed rule on whether to revise the nitrogen dioxide ambient air limit for White House review ahead of a July 14 legal deadline to release it.

EPA signs CWA jurisdiction rule repeal, sparking criticism

Administrator Scott Pruitt indicated he is following calls from industry officials to promulgate a “clean” repeal bill, followed by a subsequent measure that would replace the Obama-era rule.

Ewire: EPA touts early energy enforcement case

Federal officials are touting an enforcement action against a Colorado energy company even as President Donald Trump prepares to call for energy production “dominance.” Plus, EPA pressured scientist on House testimony and Superfund Alternative approaches.

EPA rejects petition on Washington water standards

EPA's formal rejection of the petition ended a deadline suit environmentalists filed and also clears the way for a legal challenge to the agency's denial that will focus on the adequacy of the state's standards.

Read all the latest EPA news, analysis and documents →

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Sent: Sat 6/17/2017 2:33:24 PM
Subject: POLITICO Playbook, presented by POET: TRUMP to go to CAMP DAVID -- POTUS 'yelling at television sets' in the W.H., expanding his legal team -- POTUS discloses wealth and income from Mar-a-Lago -- Scalise shooter had list of lawmakers on him -- B'DAY: Newt

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Today's POLITICO Playbook presented by POET
06/17/2017 10:28 AM EDT

By JAKE SHERMAN (sherman@politico.com; @JakeSherman) and ANNA PALMER (anna@politico.com; @apalmerdc) with DANIEL LIPPMAN (daniel@politico.com; @dlippman)

Visit the online home of Playbook

Driving the Day

BREAKING -- NYT: "Judge in Bill Cosby Case Declares a Mistrial": "The judge presiding over the Bill Cosby sexual assault trial declared a mistrial Saturday after jurors reported being hopelessly deadlocked. The exhausted jurors had been deliberating since Monday, sometimes for as much as 12 hours a day. The mistrial, which Mr. Cosby's lawyers had supported, means that prosecutors will need to decide whether to retry Mr. Cosby on the charges at a later date." http://nyti.ms/2rGZuZD

TODAY'S MUST READ -- AN ORAL HISTORY from **KYLE CHENEY, HEATHER CAYGLE** and **ELANA SCHOR** in **POLITICO Magazine -- "'Somebody's Trying to Kill Me':** Five terrifying minutes on a baseball field, in the words of the people who were there." http://politi.co/2sAA3Nq

Good Saturday morning. Today is the 45th anniversary of the Watergate break in.
THE PRESIDENT'S MOOD -- AP's Julie Pace and Jonathan Lemire: "Trump advisers and confidants describe the president as increasingly angry over the investigation, yelling at television sets in the White House carrying coverage and insisting he is the target of a conspiracy to discredit - and potentially end - his presidency." http://apne.ws/2sc8GbV

-- WHAT MIGHT KEEP THE PRESIDENT UP AT NIGHT: "Mueller's staff grows to 13, with 'several more in the pipeline,'" by Darren Samuelsohn: "Special counsel Robert Mueller has added 13 attorneys -- with more still to come -- as his investigation quickly expands beyond potential collusion between President Donald Trump's campaign with Russia to potential obstruction of justice case by the president. ... [The] prosecution team [has] experience going after everything from the Mafia and Enron to al

Qaeda and President Richard Nixon." http://politi.co/2sDRvS8

-- HOW HE'S EXPANDING HIS LEGAL TEAM: "Trump hires another high-profile lawyer as FBI probe heats up," by Josh Dawsey: "John Dowd, who investigated Pete Rose for Major League Baseball and represented John McCain during the Keating Five Scandal, among other high-profile clients, has joined the president's legal team, according to two people familiar with the pick. Dowd declined to comment Friday. The addition of Dowd, a 76-year-old former prosecutor who has practiced law in Washington for decades, adds an experienced hand in the investigation. He joins Marc Kasowitz, Trump's longtime New York lawyer, Jay Sekulow and Mark Bowe, who works with Kasowitz." http://politi.co/2sDRldf

-- WHAT HE'S DOING WITH HIS POWER: "5 things Trump did while you weren't looking: Week 2," by Danny Vinik: "1. U.S. and China make nice on beef, dairy and poultry ... 2. Education Department targets Obama-era student protections ... 3. The Pentagon flexes its muscles ... 4. VA civil service reforms heads to Trump's desk ... 5. New food labels? Not so fast." http://politi.co/2tbw0F2

-- WHAT THE WHITE HOUSE WANTS: "White House Officials Push for Widening War in Syria Over Pentagon Objections," by Foreign Policy's Kate Brannen, Dan De Luce, and Paul McLeary: "A pair of top White House officials is pushing to broaden the war in Syria, viewing it as an opportunity to confront Iran and its proxy forces on the ground there, according to two sources familiar with the debate inside the Donald Trump administration. Ezra Cohen-Watnick, the senior director for intelligence on the National Security Council, and Derek Harvey, the NSC's top Middle East advisor, want the United States to start going on the offensive in southern Syria, where, in recent weeks, the U.S. military has taken a handful of defensive actions against Iranian-backed forces fighting in support of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad. Their plans are making even traditional Iran hawks nervous, including Defense Secretary James Mattis, who has personally shot down their proposals more than once, the two sources said." http://atfp.co/2tdq4f0

-- WHERE HE'S SPENDING HIS SATURDAY: "From regal to rustic, Trump heads to Camp David for weekend," by AP's Catherine Lucey: "President Donald Trump is picking simple over swanky this weekend. Nearly five months into his presidency, Trump is heading to Camp David, the government-owned retreat in Maryland's Catoctin Mountains, for the first time. A frequent weekend traveler, Trump has favored his palatial residences in Florida and New Jersey over the wooded hideaway used by many presidents for a break from Washington. No one expects the luxury-loving leader to make this a regular thing. After all, Trump told foreign newspapers earlier this year that Camp David was 'very rustic' and 'you know how long you'd like it? For about 30 minutes.'" http://apne.ws/2tyun3D

TRUMP is expected to leave for Camp David sometime this morning.

-- HOW HE'S SO RICH: "Trump reports assets of at least $1.4 billion in financial disclosure," by Theo Meyer and Matt Nussbaum: "The Trump International Hotel,

which opened last year just blocks from the White House in a building leased from the federal government, brought in nearly $20 million in revenue for the president, according to Trump's latest financial disclosure, released by the U.S. Office of Government Ethics on Friday. Trump's Mar-a-Lago resort, which he visited often in the early months of his presidency, raked in $37 million - up from $30 million in the report Trump filed last year and about $16 million in the report filed two years ago.

"Sales of Trump's 'The Art of the Deal' brought in as much as $1 million for Trump, compared to the less than $100,000 in royalties that Trump reported in his 2016 filing. And sales of Trump's book 'Crippled America' brought in up to another $5 million. Trump reported assets of at least $1.4 billion and income of at least $596.3 million in the 2016 calendar year and the early months of 2017. He reported owing at least $310 million to various financial institutions, including at least $130 million to Deutsche Bank." http://politi.co/2tduBOt

--HOT DOC: Trump's financial disclosure http://bit.ly/2rCqr5H

DARREN SAMUELSOHN: "Escalating investigation puts Trump and his staff at legal odds": "The legal interests of President Donald Trump and his aides are dramatically diverging as special counsel Robert Mueller expands his probe into possible obstruction of justice - and as the president ratchets up his attacks on the investigators. While Trump's personal attorney, Marc Kasowitz, recently told White House staffers they can rely on him, rather than hire their own lawyers, some of the people closest to Trump aren't taking that advice. ... More White House staffers are likely to hire lawyers and splinter off as the president's response to the investigation grows increasingly aggressive." http://politi.co/2sAqH4i

CORRECTION OF THE DAY -- WaPo: "A May 19 Page One article about investigations into potential collusion between Russia and the Trump campaign incorrectly quoted President Trump. Speaking in the wake of Deputy Attorney General Rod J. Rosenstein's decision to appoint a special counsel, Trump said, 'I respect the move, but the entire thing has been a witch hunt, and there is no collusion between -- certainly myself and my campaign, but I can always speak for myself and the Russians. Zero.' He did not say, 'I can only speak for myself and the Russians.'"

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SCARY -- "Alexandria Gunman Carried List With Names of 3 Republican Lawmakers,' by NYT's Adam Goldman: "The gunman who targeted Republican congressmen this week at a baseball field in suburban Washington was carrying a list with the names of at least three lawmakers, and had pictures of the ballpark stored on his cellphone, two law enforcement officials said on Friday. One of the officials said there were no explicit threats written on the list that was found on the body of James T.

Hodgkinson, who was killed on Wednesday morning in a shootout with the police in Alexandria, Va., after he took aim at Republican lawmakers preparing for a charity baseball game against congressional Democrats.

"The official said the list included at least three names: Representatives Mo Brooks of Alabama, Jeff Duncan of South Carolina and Trent Franks of Arizona, according to the two officials who spoke on condition of anonymity because the shooting remained under investigation.

"Both officials said Mr. Hodgkinson, 66, of Belleville, Ill., had also taken pictures of the ballpark, nestled in a mostly liberal neighborhood seven miles south of the nation's capital. For several weeks, Mr. Hodgkinson had hung out at a Y.M.C.A. center located next to the ballpark, using its locker room facilities and sitting for hours in the lobby while on his laptop. Authorities believe he was living out of a van since leaving Illinois in March; his brother said he was in the capital region to protest President Trump.

"The morning of the shooting, Mr. Hodgkinson approached Mr. Duncan in an adjacent parking lot and asked for the political affiliation of the lawmakers on the playing field. 'I told him they were Republicans,' the lawmaker recalled. 'He said, 'O.K., thanks,' turned around.'" http://nyti.ms/2slNsql

-- THE DAILY CALLER's Peter Hassoon originally broke this story. http://bit.ly/2tyCQE0

-- THIS WILL ONLY ESCALATE the discussion about ramping up security for members of Congress.

FOR YOUR RADAR -- "Seven sailors missing after U.S. Navy destroyer collides with container ship in Japan," by Reuters' Toru Hanai and Megumi Lim in Yokosuka, Japan: "U.S. Navy destroyer USS Fitzgerald sailed back to its base in Yokosuka, with seven of its sailors still missing after it collided with a Philippine-flagged container ship more than three times its size in eastern Japan early on Saturday. ... Search and rescue efforts by U.S. and Japanese aircraft and surface vessels were continuing for the seven missing sailors, the Navy said. Their names are being withheld until the families have been notified, it said." http://reut.rs/2scminK

2020 WATCH -- "How Jason Kander Won by Losing," by Isaac Dovere in Manchester, N.H.: "Jason Kander was wearing a mic pack here as he wandered around the Puritan Backroom, chatting with local activists and politicians at the Manchester Democratic Club chicken dinner. A videographer, who followed him around as he moved from table to table, was being paid out of his campaign account. Kander's Senate race ended seven months ago. He lost. ...

"The 36-year-old Kander - who came shockingly close to ousting Missouri's Republican Sen. Roy Blunt last November despite Hillary Clinton's blowout loss in the state-has been a man in demand the last seven months, starting with a major Iowa progressive group that reached out after the election to ask him to come to its holiday

party. He drew a slightly bigger crowd than Bernie Sanders had at the same event two years earlier. He's kept doing presidential-ish travel and generating presidential-ish buzz, though the highest office he's ever held is secretary of state-of Missouri.

"'All I can tell you is what people say when they invite us,' Kander said, sitting down for an interview for POLITICO's Off Message podcast. 'They say that they want me to come talk about the future of the party, how we were able to run 16 points ahead.'" http://politi.co/2rBZheX ... ***Listen and subscribe to Off Message*** http://apple.co/2nEa7y0

HMM -- "Democratic 2020 contenders? Voters haven't heard of them," by Steven Shepard: "President Donald Trump's poor poll numbers have dozens of Democrats reportedly considering challenging him in 2020. But voters haven't heard of the vast majority of them. According to a new POLITICO/Morning Consult poll that tested voters' views of 19 potential Democratic presidential candidates - a list that includes eight senators, five governors, one congressman, a big-city mayor and a failed Senate candidate - most of the prospects are unknown among at least half the electorate. Since the next presidential election won't start in earnest for at least 18 months, that leaves a limited time for no-name candidates to build name recognition and familiarity among voters." http://politi.co/2tyjmzi

IMPORTANT READ -- "Trump threatens to break the glass on DOJ succession plan," by Annie Karni: "An abstract, in-case-of-emergency-break-glass executive order drafted by the Trump administration in March may become real-world applicable as the president, raging publicly at his Justice Department, mulls firing special counsel Robert Mueller.

"Since taking office, the Trump administration has twicerewritten an executive order that outlines the order of succession at the Justice Department -- once after President Donald Trump fired acting Attorney General Sally Yates for refusing to defend his travel ban, and then again two months later. The executive order outlines a list of who would be elevated to the position of acting attorney general if the person up the food chain recuses himself, resigns, gets fired or is no longer in a position to serve.

"In the past, former Justice Department officials and legal experts said, the order of succession is no more than an academic exercise -- a chain of command applicable only in the event of an attack or crisis when government officials are killed and it is not clear who should be in charge. But Trump and the Russia investigation that is tightening around him have changed the game." http://politi.co/2sJnRdC

KNOW HER NOW -- RACHEL BRAND PROFILE - "The Obscure Lawyer Who Might Become the Most Powerful Woman in Washington : If the deputy attorney general resigns or gets fired, oversight of the Trump-Russia investigation would fall to the Justice Department's No. 3, Rachel Brand," by Philip Shenon in POLITICO Magazine: "Brand has enjoyed a glittering career, one that marked her early for a top job at the Justice Department in a Republican administration. Raised with three siblings on an

Iowa farm, she graduated from the University of Minnesota in 1995 and, three years later, from Harvard Law School. ... Brand was part of the legal team representing Bush in the Florida vote recount in 2000. She went on to be hired as a Supreme Court clerk to Justice Anthony M. Kennedy before joining Bush's Justice Department. There, she helped shepherd the Supreme Court nominations of John Roberts and Samuel Alito. In 2011, Brand became a top lawyer for the United States Chamber of Commerce, dealing with regulatory issues." http://politi.co/2sAEacw

SCOOP -- "House Russia investigators want to bring in Trump digital director," by CNN's Tom LoBianco: "House Russia investigators are planning to call on Brad Parscale, the digital director of President Donald Trump's campaign, as the congressional and federal probes dig into any possible connections between the Trump digital operation and Russian operatives. ... The House Russia investigation is planning to send an invite to Parscale soon, as they begin scheduling witnesses over the summer ... The Senate intelligence committee is also interested in how Russian bots were able to target political messages in specific districts in critical swing states, although it is not clear if Parscale will be called before the Senate panel as well." http://cnn.it/2tyo2oX

BOB COSTA ON GEORGIA'S SIXTH -- "Trump's shadow and stalled GOP agenda loom over close Georgia race": "The unfolding drama over Russian meddling in the 2016 election and President Trump's handling of ensuing investigations has transfixed Washington - and bored Mather Lindsay.

"'Probably a little overdone,' Lindsay, a 46-year-old economist and father of three girls, said during lunch this week at the Salt Factory Pub. What grabbed Lindsay's attention was the GOP's stalled legislative agenda -- in particular, the promised overhauls of the tax code and the nation's health-care law. 'Trump's self-inflicted wounds are my biggest disappointment,' Lindsay said. 'He has squandered a huge opportunity to get all that done.' 'Someone,' he added, 'needs to take his Twitter away.'

"Republicans in this wealthy community on the outskirts of Atlanta -- and in traditionally right-leaning suburbs nationally -- are facing a reckoning. So far, they have been willing to stomach a torrent of Trump outbursts and worrying twists in the Russia probes, but they are beginning to wonder if their patience is worth it. A crucial test of that patience will come Tuesday in Georgia's 6th Congressional District, home not only to well-educated, mostly white Republicans but also to what has become the most expensive House race in history." http://wapo.st/2sAxQBE

Playbook Reads

PHOTO DU JOUR: President Donald Trump holds up a memorandum after signing it on U.S./Cuba policy after he spoke at the Manuel Artime Theatre in Miami, Florida on June 16. | Mandel Ngan/AFP/Getty

LIFEVEST -- "Sources: Federal officials vetting [Sam] Brownback for position in Trump administration," by Kansas City Star's Bryan Lowry and McClatchy's Lindsay Wise: "Two close associates of Brownback confirmed to The Star that they were interviewed by federal officials about the governor's character and qualifications last month. And a congressional source said people close to the governor and senior officials at the White House have said that it's a matter of when, not if, he gets a post. ... [T]he appointment ... will most likely be with the U.S. State Department." http://bit.ly/2smk1EK

NOT SO FAST -- "DACA still 'under review,' Trump administration says," by Ted Hesson: "The future of an Obama-era deportation relief program remains undecided, the Department of Homeland Security said Friday. The announcement was meant to clarify the department's position on the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, which allows nearly 788,000 undocumented immigrants to apply for work permits and live in the U.S. without fear of deportation.

"'The future of the DACA program continues to be under review with the administration,' a DHS spokesperson said in a written statement. 'The president has remarked on the need to handle the issue with compassion and with heart.' DHS felt compelled to issue a statement on the program's fate after POLITICO and other outlets reported Thursday on guidance posted to the DHS website that suggested DACA would remain on firm footing under the Trump administration." http://politi.co/2rGPkIE

MICHAEL GRUNWALD in Camageuy, Cuba: "Trump's Strange Retreat from Cuba": http://politi.co/2sEbmAD

HOW MEGYN KELLY WOOED ALEX JONES -- "Alex Jones Scoops Megyn Kelly And Proves The Media Isn't Ready For The Trolls," by BuzzFeed's Charlie Warzel: "At 3 a.m. Friday, Infowars delivered on part of its promise and published a 30-minute video to YouTube containing roughly 10 minutes of Kelly's pre-interview where she's attempting to get Jones to agree to the interview. In the tape, Kelly repeatedly reassures Jones she intends to be fair. 'You'll be fine with it,' she can be heard saying. 'I'm not looking to portray you as a bogeyman ... The craziest thing of all would be if some of the people who have this insane version of you in your heads walk away saying, "You know, I see the dad in him. I see the guy who loves those kids and is more complex than I've been led to believe."" http://bzfd.it/2rqawmR

--"What Megyn Kelly says in leaked audio from Alex Jones" - Media Matters: http://mm4a.org/2tyHbXQ

-- TV NEWSER: "Connecticut NBC Station Won't Air Megyn Kelly Interview with Alex Jones": MEMO FROM THE NETWORK: "Whenever there is news regarding the Sandy Hook tragedy, we know that the pain resurfaces for our community, our viewers and for you, our colleagues at WVIT. Over the last few days, we have listened intently to Sandy Hook parents, our viewers and importantly, to you. We have considered the deep emotions from the wounds of that day that have yet to heal. Because those wounds are

understandably still so raw, we have decided not to air this week's episode of Sunday Night With Megyn Kelly. We will continue our local coverage, including a special report on our Sunday 11pm newscast, which includes Sandy Hook parents, Governor Malloy and others who work to affect change around violence and mental illness. For those in our viewing area who still wish to see the show, it will be available Monday on NBCNews.com." http://bit.ly/2rCamwO

TV TONIGHT -- MSNBC is re-airing at 9 p.m. "All the President's Men Revisited," a documentary on the Watergate scandal on the 45th anniversary of the infamous break-in at the DNC.

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CLICKER - "The nation's cartoonists on the week in politics,"edited by Matt Wuerker -- ***16 keepers*** http://politi.co/2rES09B

GREAT WEEKEND READS, curated by Daniel Lippman:

--"How the Saudi-Qatar Rivalry, Now Combusting, Reshaped the Middle East The Interpreter," by The Upshot's Max Fisher: "Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani, the crown prince of Qatar ... believed Qatar could find security only by transforming itself from Saudi appendage to rival. But how? The audacious plan he put in motion set off something of a regional cold war, in time remaking not just the politics of the oil-rich Persian Gulf, but also those of the entire Middle East, culminating in last week's crisis." http://nyti.ms/2twiH1h

--"Remembering the Murder You Didn't Commit," by Rachel Aviv in The New Yorker: "DNA evidence exonerated six convicted killers. So why do some of them recall the crime so clearly?" http://bit.ly/2rzORwG

--"What Both the Left and Right Get Wrong About Race," by Dalton Conley and Jason Fletcher in Nautilus magazine: "Setting the scientific record straight on race, IQ, and success." http://bit.ly/2sHZwoO

--"The Food Stamp Program Is An Overwhelming Success. That Might Also Be Its Downfall," by HuffPo's Arthur Delaney: "Donald Trump and Republicans in Congress could cut benefits for millions." http://bit.ly/2tweivF

--"Rigged," by Brett Murphy in USA Today: "Forced into debt. Worked past exhaustion. Left with nothing." https://usat.ly/2sBKe51

--"Knowing Me, Knowing Me," by Sarah Ditum in the Literary Review, reviewing "Selfie: How We Became So Self-Obsessed & What It's Doing to Us," by Will Storr: "Each of us ... has an internal 'storyteller'. This is a narrative voice that turns the daily barrage of experience into a comprehensible arc of actions and reactions, positioning us as the hero of the story. The trouble is, this voice is a dangerous liar. It tells us that we are good and rational and that other people are venal and flawed. And in a world that defines a good person as high-achieving, high-status, slim and attractive, sometimes the strain of maintaining the story is too much." http://bit.ly/2s9YS1Z (h/t ALDaily.com)

--"A Sociology of the Smartphone," by Adam Greenfield in Longreads, in an excerpt of "Radical Technologies: The Design of Everyday Life": "Smartphones have altered the texture of everyday life, digesting many longstanding spaces and rituals, and transforming others beyond recognition." http://bit.ly/2roRRYA ...***$19.19 on Amazon*** http://amzn.to/2sBGznU

--"Ray Spencer Didn't Molest His Kids. So Why Did He Spend 20 Years in Prison for It?" by Maurice Chammah in Esquire: "Matt and Katie accused their father of sexual abuse. Then they started to question their memories." http://bit.ly/2sC8nsh

--"How America Lost the War on Drugs," by Ben Wallace-Wells in Rolling Stone in Dec. 2007: "After thirty-five years and $500 billion, drugs are as cheap and plentiful as ever. An anatomy of a failure." http://rol.st/2twr2Ca (h/t Longform.org)

--"When Neurology Becomes Theology," by Robert A. Burton in Nautilus magazine: "The pursuit of the nature of consciousness, no matter how cleverly couched in scientific language, is more like metaphysics and theology. It is driven by the same urges that made us dream up souls and afterlife. The human urge to understand ourselves is eternal, and how we frame our musings depends upon prevailing cultural mythology. In a scientific era, we should expect philosophical and theological ruminations to be couched in the language of physical processes." http://bit.ly/2royVJj

--"Jungle Law," by William Langewiesche in May's Vanity Fair: "In 1972, crude oil began to flow from Texaco's wells in the area around Lago Agrio ('sour lake'), in the Ecuadorean Amazon. Born that same year, Pablo Fajardo is now the lead attorney in an epic lawsuit-among the largest environmental suits in history-against Chevron, which acquired Texaco in 2001. Reporting on an emotional battle in a makeshift jungle courtroom, the author investigates how many hundreds of square miles of surrounding rain forest became a toxic-waste dump." http://bit.ly/2rEYwx3

GREAT WEEKEND LISTEN, curated by Jake Sherman:

-- MY FIRST Phish show was 13 years ago today at Keyspan Park in Brooklyn. http://bit.ly/2tduxhH

Playbookers

http://bit.ly/2omgw1D): Author and former Supreme Allied Commander of NATO Adm. James Stavridis.

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From: POLITICO Pro Energy
Sent: Fri 6/30/2017 9:43:21 AM
Subject: Morning Energy, presented by Exelon: Trump's energy speech short on bold action — Clean coal backers unfazed by Kemper collapse — Bishop open to another energy bill push

By Anthony Adragna | 06/30/2017 05:41 AM EDT

With help from Eric Wolff, Alex Guillén, Darius Dixon and Esther Whieldon

PROGRAMMING NOTE — Due to the July 4 holiday, Morning Energy will not publish on Monday, July 3 and Tuesday, July 4. Our next Morning Energy will publish on Wednesday, July 5. Please continue to follow Pro Energy issues here.

ACTIONS CAP ENERGY WEEK: It was a speech heavy on rhetorical flair about U.S. "energy dominance" for President Donald Trump on Thursday, but the six initiatives he touted were decidedly more modest in practice.

1.**'A complete review' of nuclear policy.** Trump said he wants to revive and expand the nuclear energy through a "complete review of U.S. nuclear energy policy." It's not exactly clear what this will entail and the president said he await results of that examination before moving additional policy.

2. **First step toward new offshore drilling plan.** Following through on Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke's May directive, BOEM plans to publish a request for information on the new five-year offshore drilling plan on Monday. Comments will then be accepted for 45 days, and Zinke has said he expects the entire plan writing process will take two or three years. Pro's Esther Whieldon with more here.

3. **Find an opening for overseas coal financing.** Trump vowed his Treasury Department would "address barriers" to financing overseas coal plants, though didn't specify exactly what that would entail. The Obama administration issued guidance back in 2013 in an effort to pressure multilateral development banks like the World Bank not to fund those sorts of projects, though it wouldn't require much to simply withdraw it.

4. **More LNG exports authorized.** DOE approved two LNG export applications from the Lake Charles LNG facility, a joint venture between Shell and Energy Transfer Equity in Louisiana, to boost deliveries. It authorized an additional 0.33 billion cubic feet per day on top of the 2 Bcf/d in previously approved exports.

5. **Modest Mexican pipeline approved.** The State Department approved permits for the New Burgos Pipeline, which will cross the border near Peñitas, Texas, and can deliver up to 108,000 barrels per day of refined petroleum products. Pro's Nick Juliano with more here. "It'll go right under the wall," Trump said.

6. **Sempra LNG negotiations highlighted.** With the South Korean president in town, Trump highlighted a formal beginning of negotiations with Sempra Energy's to sell U.S. liquefied

natural gas to South Korea.

Not mentioned: Climate change, all-of-the-above, Southern Company's decision to abandon its clean coal efforts at the Kemper plant in Mississippi, solar panels on his border wall, renewable energies, calls to shut down other pipelines — Access Northeast and Enbridge Inc.'s Line 5 (more on that below).

International wish list: Trump's top economic adviser said world leaders such as Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi are desperate for more U.S. liquefied natural gas exports, Pro's Darius Dixon reports. "It's not because our LNG is cheaper than Russian gas — Russian gas is actually cheaper," National Economic Council Director Gary Cohn said. "But our LNG is guaranteed to show up once you enter into a contract." Cohn said LNG exports would be high on Trump's agenda next week as he stops in Poland before the G-20 summit in Germany.

Quotable: Trump after spotting coal magnate Bob Murray in the room: "He's in great shape, right? You in good shape, Bob? Right from the beginning. Good. You just take care of yourself, all right?" Remember Murray's lawsuit against comedian John Oliver claimed he was dependent on an oxygen tank and "does not expect to see the end of this case."

Fact check: Trump erroneously claimed that after he set in motion the approval of the Dakota Access and Keystone pipelines, "I didn't take any heat. I approved them and that was it. I figured we'd have all sorts of protests. We didn't have anything." In point of fact, hundreds of thousands of people have protested Trump's actions on the pipelines and other environmental matters at multiple marches since he took office. More than 200,000 people alone protested the Trump administration's environmental actions at the Peoples Climate March in late April.

Lawmakers shrug it off: Despite efforts from the White House to build up Energy Week buzz, the impact among senior Hill lawmakers seems minimal. House Energy and Commerce Environment subcommittee Chairman John Shimkus and House Natural Resources Chairman Rob Bishop both said they really hadn't been paying much attention to it, while Senate Energy Chairman Lisa Murkowski — with some exasperation in her voice — quipped to reporters: "The fact that it's actually Energy Week seems to me it might be worth some news coverage." (Murkowski has been getting more questions about health care lately than on the bipartisan energy bill she and Sen. Maria Cantwell just reintroduced.)

WELCOME TO FRIDAY! I'm your host Anthony Adragna, and Duke Energy's Michael Sewell was the first of many of you to identify Strom Thurmond as our nation's oldest serving senator. For today: What two U.S. state capitals have no vowels in common but yet rhyme? Send your tips, energy gossip and comments to aadragna@politico.com, or follow us on Twitter @AnthonyAdragna, @Morning_Energy, and @POLITICOPro .

CCS FANS SOLDIER ON AFTER KEMPER COLLAPSE: Southern Company's decision to burn natural gas and abandon its dreams of gasified coal and carbon capture at its power plant in Kemper County, Miss., doesn't seem to worry fans of the technology too much. Sen. Heidi Heitkamp told ME Southern Company "had to make an economic decision for their shareholders," but she wasn't worried about the technology. Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse said he

still plans to introduce a bipartisan bill expanding CCS tax credits, but he thinks, in the long run, carbon technologies "only make economic sense if there's a price on carbon." Sen. Joe Manchin did express some concern over the project's failure and promised to explore the matter over recess. "I'd like to find out what happened," he said.

Apropos of Kemper: A senior aide to Rep. David McKinley said Kemper "wouldn't change the equation" for carbon capture technology. While President Donald Trump's budget calls for major cuts to DOE's Office of Fossil Energy, where CCS research is funded, the recent appropriation bill introduced would restore most of the office's funding. Energy Secretary Rick Perry has praised Petra Nova, a carbon capture project in his home state, and he will soon visit the Morgantown National Lab, which conducts carbon capture research.

A little history: SoCo's decision would have been a much bigger deal a year ago, when top EPA officials were desperately trying to persuade a skeptical Congress carbon capture was a realistic technology for new coal plants to use to meet limits under a rule limiting CO2 emissions from new power plants. Former Administrator Gina McCarthy repeatedly argued Kemper and a tiny power plant in Canada were living proof that CCS was a viable technology. The new source rule is still there, but no one is building coal power, so the point is kind of moot.

Big Green win: Sierra Club has been fighting the Kemper project for years, calling it "dirty, expensive and unnecessary." Louie Miller, Sierra Club's Mississippi director, said shareholders will bear most if not all of the cost of the gasification and CCS elements, while the NGCC plant will go to ratepayers. "The commission made the right decision here, and it appears from what happened yesterday that the idea of what Kemper was design to do, be a clean coal project, has just had a stake driven through its heart."

REPUBLICAN AG SEEKS ENBRIDGE PIPELINE CLOSURE: Michigan Attorney General Bill Schuette on Thursday called for a "specific and definite timetable to close" Enbridge's Line 5 dual pipelines that run along the bottom of the Straits of Mackinac. The pipelines, which became operational in 1953, carry light crude oil and natural gas liquids through the waters where Lakes Huron and Michigan meet. Schuette, who is widely expected to run for governor, made his comments after the release of a consultant's report that suggested the pipelines could operate indefinitely, though the attorney general said he "strongly disagreed" with that view.

John Gauderman, Enbridge's director of operations for the Great Lakes region, defended the pipeline's health, according to the Associated Press. "After more than 60 years in service, Line 5 is in outstanding operating condition because the rigorous maintenance done through the decades...We intend to keep it that way." In a client note, ClearView Energy Partners said continued operation of Line 5 "looks stable for now" and "clarity regarding the line's future prospects may be a year away, if not longer."

** **A message from Exelon:** Innovation always begins with the spirit of discovery—the search for new ideas and answers to our biggest questions. As America's largest clean energy provider, what happens when 34,000 Exelon engineers, analysts, and innovators put their heads together to tackle the energy industry's biggest challenges? Find out here: http://bit.ly/2szvZN4 **

IT'S BEEN AN HONOR: Today is Colette Honorable's last day as a FERC commissioner, ending her two-and-a-half year run at the agency. Her departure leaves acting FERC Chairwoman Cheryl LaFleur as the last person standing at a commission with five leadership seats although the place may filling up after next week's recess. The White House announced plans earlier this week to nominate Rich Glick to succeed Honorable and take a seat at FERC that could keep him there into 2022. But Honorable isn't going far. She plans to stay in the D.C. area but hasn't said what she'll be up to yet.

SENATE STAFF HUDDLE ON DOCUMENT REQUESTS: Staffers with the top Republican and Democrat on the Environment and Public Works Committee huddled with EPA staff, including Chief of Staff Ryan Jackson, this week for a "constructive" meeting about responding to oversight requests, Ranking Member Tom Carper tells ME. "We'll build on that," he said. A Republican EPW aide confirmed the meeting took place.

Nothing's up: Carper also told ME not to read anything into EPW's decision to postpone a host of votes on nominees for a second time on Thursday. He said Chairman John Barrasso's staff opted to delay the votes on two NRC nominees and an EPA pick until July 12 because they "thought there was too much going on."

NOW TAKING BETS: Count Bishop as open to another crack at passing a broad energy bill this year amid Murkowski and Cantwell's renewed push at broad Senate legislation unveiled this week. "Pass it and send it over," the Utah Republican told ME. "I'd be happy to look at it." ICYMI: Here's the text of the new Senate bill and Murkowski's comments on securing floor time.

CAN I HITCH A RIDE? Sen. Tim Scott tells ME that he is still eyeing the must-pass FAA re-authorization legislation as one possible vehicle for his bill that would extend tax credits for nuclear projects. Lawmakers are hoping to get the FAA bill through next month but are running into scheduling complications thanks to ongoing healthcare reform efforts. Asked what his current plans are for advancing his legislation, S. 666 , Scott told ME: "Prayer." He went on to say "you know, there's only a couple of vehicles at this point, FAA is one of them, the tax extenders at the end of the year, the tax reform package as well. We're trying to hotline it but I don't think Schumer is allowing us to hotline anything." The House passed a companion version of the nuclear tax bill earlier this month.

TWO NAMES FORMALLY SENT: The White House formally sent the Senate the nominations of Brenda Burman to be commissioner of the Bureau of Reclamation and Douglas Domenech to be an assistant Interior secretary for insular areas Thursday.

MAIL CALL! INFO SOUGHT ON 'SUE AND SETTLE' CHANGES: Five senior House Judiciary and Energy and Commerce Republicans sent a letter to EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt and Attorney General Jeff Sessions requesting a briefing about recent agency changes curtailing the use of "sue and settle" policies. "During the previous administration, EPA entered numerous settlements or consent decrees, a practice known as 'sue and settle,' committing the agency to undertake significant new rulemakings subject to timelines or schedules," the lawmakers wrote.

"We appreciate this change in policy, hope that Attorney General Sessions shares Administrator Pruitt's views, and urge EPA and the Justice Department to develop conforming written guidelines as soon as possible." Reps. Greg Walden, Bob Goodlatte, Tim Murphy, Tom Marino and John Shimkus signed the letter.

THIS TIME WE'RE SERIOUS: Attorneys general from 14 states and D.C. say they plan to sue EPA for not regulating methane emissions from existing oil and gas wells and other industry sources. The agency issued a rule last year covering new wells under Section 111(b) of the Clean Air Act, which in turn triggered a requirement that it write a rule for existing sources too. The Trump administration has paused major portions of that new source rule, and ended an information request that was a first step toward regulating existing wells.

MASSACHUSETTS MOVES FORWARD ON OFFSHORE WIND: The Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources on Thursday issued a request for proposals between 400 megawatts and 800 megawatts of offshore wind projects. This is the DPU's first move under a law passed last year to arrange for utilities to buy 1,600 megawatts of offshore wind power by 2027. Would-be developers have until July 26 to indicate that they plan to bid for a contract and until Dec. 20 to make their pitch. The team managing the process expects to send negotiated contracts for the DPU's approval by July 31, 2018.

NOW IN TIME FOR ENERGY WEEK! Sen. Claire McCaskill, Homeland Security and Governmental Reform ranking member, sent a letter Thursday requesting a briefing from DOE on why two companies with past waste and fraud issues — Bechtel National, Inc. and AECOM — were able to form a subsidiary to clean up the Hanford nuclear Waste Treatment Plant. She said the arrangement "raises questions about DOE's ability to conduct oversight" and added she has additional "questions about the impact of this subcontract on performance and costs."

MOVER, SHAKER: Former Kansas Rep. Tim Huelskamp has been named the next president of the Heartland Institute, the libertarian group that argues against the scientific consensus on climate change; he'll succeed long-time president Joseph Bast, who co-founded the organization in 1984.

QUICK HITS

— A New Problem for Keystone XL: Oil Companies Don't Want It. Wall Street Journal.

— Environmentalists, fishing groups file lawsuits to block Delta tunnels plan. Mercury News.

— Pennsylvania gets no seat at the table during White House 'Energy Week' panel. Pittsburgh Post-Gazette.

— Utilities withdraw plan for $3 billion natural gas pipeline expansion. Boston Globe.

— As Climate Changes, Southern States Will Suffer More Than Others. New York Times.

— Investors slowly start to push climate change up their agenda. Reuters.

HAPPENING TODAY

No energy events today

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To view online:
https://www.politicopro.com/tipsheets/morning-energy/2017/06/trumps-energy-speech-short-on-bold-action-023561

Stories from POLITICO Pro

Interior to take first step in offshore drilling plan rewrite Back

By Esther Whieldon | 06/29/2017 03:40 PM EDT

The Interior Department today announced it is taking the first step toward redoing its five-year offshore drilling plan.

The agency expects to publish a request for information on the five-year plan in the Federal Register on Monday. It likely will take at least two-to-three years to complete a new offshore drilling plan, but BOEM will still be able to issue leases in the meantime for offshore sites that were included in the Obama administration's version.

Interior officials announced the plans just before President Donald Trump's speech at the Energy Department this afternoon.

On orders from Trump, Secretary Ryan Zinke in May directed BOEM to write a new plan for offering oil and gas drilling leases in the Outer Continental Shelf and to include parts of the Gulf of Mexico and Atlantic Ocean as well as Alaska's Chukchi Sea, Beaufort Sea and Cook Inlet areas. The Obama administration last year issued a plan that left out parts of the Beaufort and Chukchi seas.

"Offering more areas for energy exploration and responsible development was a cornerstone of the President's campaign and this action is the first step in making good on that promise for offshore oil and gas," Zinke said in a statement.

WHAT'S NEXT: Interior will accept comments for 45 days once the request for information is published, and Zinke has said he expects the entire plan writing process will take two or three years.

To view online click here.

Back

U.S. cuts funding for overseas coal power plants Back

By Alex Guillén | 10/29/2013 04:23 PM EDT

The Obama administration is drawing a line in the sand on public financing for overseas coal-fired power plants.

The U.S. will use its considerable influence to pressure multilateral development banks like the World Bank against providing funding for almost all coal projects.

The new guidance issued Tuesday is squarely aimed at ending public financing of coal projects except under rare circumstances, a senior Treasury official told reporters.

President Barack Obama's climate action plan announced in June included an order that the government stop financing coal plants overseas except in very rare circumstances.

That order drew cheers from environmentalists, in part because the plants are a major contributor to rising sea levels and extreme weather associated with climate change that is expected to inflict the greatest damage on developing nations.

But the move also brought criticism from conservative groups and fossil fuel advocates who said it essentially cuts off a source of cheap electricity for the world's poorest countries.

The guidance issued by the Treasury Department on Tuesday says banks should look for opportunities to deploy low-carbon power sources, including renewable energy, or to provide efficiency upgrades for existing plants.

While there are exceptions to allow a coal project to move forward, it's not clear whether any project could meet Treasury's stringent requirements.

In countries so poor they can only borrow from the World Bank Group's International Development Association (known as IDA-only countries), banks could move forward with a coal project but only if "it can be demonstrated that the project overcome binding constraints on national economic development" and if the project "employs the best available technology for reducing GHG emissions that is practically feasible," according to Treasury's guidance.

There are currently 64 IDA-only countries, according to the World Bank, including Haiti, Afghanistan, Ivory Coast, Mali, Uganda and Nepal.

There are more stringent conditions for a bank to move forward with coal projects in other countries.

Under the guidance, those coal projects would have to deploy carbon capture and sequestration technology to lower carbon intensity to 500 grams of carbon dioxide equivalent per kilowatt-hour of output, or about 1,100 pounds of carbon per megawatt-hour.

That's the same standard the EPA announced in September for new coal-fired power plants in the U.S. — a rule the coal industry decried as essentially a ban on new coal plants.

One major problem to adopting CCS: The technology basically does not exist on any major scale yet.

Charles McConnell, who was DOE's top fossil energy official from 2011 until earlier this year, told lawmakers Tuesday that the EPA's claims about CCS's readiness are exaggerated.

Some early demonstrations have successfully deployed CCS, "but it's clearly not ready. It's really that simple," McConnell told a House Science Committee panel. It "can be made ready over time, and will have to have the support of the EPA as well as the marketplace and industry."

The Treasury official sidestepped questions about whether CCS can meet the standard the guidance lays out, and instead echoed a previous EPA argument that requiring such technology will encourage research and development.

The official wouldn't comment on any coal project proposals currently being considered.

The guidance also requires any new coal project to be "accompanied by a package of significant and measurable offsetting actions in the power sector" that would counter any emissions added by the project. Those actions could range from transmission upgrades or plant retirements to "demand side management."

Banks could require such offsets as part of a direct deal, or finance complementary projects that do so, the guidance says.

Retrofits of existing coal plants can get around the CCS requirement if installing the technology is not feasible, though the plant would still have to use the best technology available.

The U.S. is a major shareholder at the World Bank and other institutions, and plans to use that leverage to push banks and other countries to adopt the guidance, affecting potentially billions of dollars in financing.

Sweden, Denmark, Finland, Norway and Iceland agreed with the U.S. last month to stop public financing of coal projects.

To view online click here.

Back

State Department issues permits for U.S.-Mexico pipelines Back

By Nick Juliano | 06/29/2017 05:41 PM EDT

The State Department today released details on presidential permits it has approved for pipelines to deliver petroleum to Mexico.

President Donald Trump announced in his speech at DOE this afternoon that his administration has approved a new pipeline across the southern U.S. border.

NuStar Logistics L.P. is building the New Burgos Pipeline, which will cross the border near Peñitas, Texas, and has the capacity to deliver up to 108,000 barrels per day of refined petroleum products.

The State Department announced that it has approved a permit authorizing the construction and operation of that conduit. It also issued new permits for two other NuStar pipelines, the existing Dos Laredos and existing Burgos pipelines, to change the name of the permit holder and authorize the transport of a broader range of products. Those lines cross the border near Laredo and Peñitas.

WHAT'S NEXT: The permit authorizes NuStar to begin building its new pipeline.

To view online click here.

Back

Cohn, Perry: Allies are clamoring for U.S. energy exports Back

By Darius Dixon | 06/29/2017 03:38 PM EDT

President Donald Trump's chief economic adviser said today that world leaders like Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi are scrambling to get their hands on American liquefied natural gas exports.

National Economic Council Director Gary Cohn said that when Modi visited Washington earlier this week, "his No. 1 ask was LNG." Cohn said he also expects to discuss LNG exports with South Korean President Jae-in Moon at dinner tonight.

Exports will be high on Trump's agenda next week as he stops in Poland before the G-20 summit

in Hamburg, Germany, Cohn said.

"It's not because our LNG is cheaper than Russian gas — Russian gas is actually cheaper," Cohn said. "But our LNG is guaranteed to show up once you enter into a contract."

Energy Secretary Rick Perry, whose agency authorizes LNG exports to non-Free Trade Agreement countries, said that boosting U.S. exports will improve our relationships with allies more than leaving the Paris climate agreement angered them.

"We are in a position to be able to clearly create a hell of a lot friends by being able to deliver to them energy, and not being held hostage by some countries — Russia in particular," Perry said.

Giving Europe greater access to U.S. LNG and coal will give them alternatives to Russia, he said. "That singularly will have more to do with keeping our allies free and building their confidence in us than practically anything else."

WHAT'S NEXT: Trump travels to Warsaw next week, ahead of the G-20 summit.

To view online click here.

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Trump plans to nominate Glick for FERC seat Back

By Darius Dixon | 06/28/2017 09:32 PM EDT

President Donald Trump plans to tap Richard Glick to succeed outgoing Democratic FERC Commissioner Colette Honorable, the White House announced tonight.

Glick is the general counsel for Democrats on the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee. Before joining the panel last year, he was vice president of government affairs for Iberdrola Renewables Inc. for about a decade. The company changed its name to Avangrid Renewables last year.

He also worked as an adviser to Energy Secretary Bill Richardson during the Clinton administration.

Glick's nomination may help ease the confirmations of Republican FERC picks, Neil Chatterjee and Robert Powelson.

FERC's five-member leadership can have no more than three members from the same political party, with a majority from the party holding the White House. While presidents are responsible for nominating commissioners to the agency, tradition has long held that each party picks its own candidates to fill its seats.

The Senate energy committee has already approved the Chatterjee and Powelson nominations.

FERC has been operating without a quorum since early February, and Honorable intends to resign from the agency Friday.

The announcement of Glick's nomination confirms POLITICO's earlier reporting.

WHAT'S NEXT: The White House must still formally send Glick's nomination to the Senate before the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee will hold a hearing.

To view online click here.

Back

EPW reschedules NRC, EPA nomination votes to July Back

By Darius Dixon | 06/29/2017 10:10 AM EDT

The Senate Environment and Public Works Committee announced this morning that it has delayed votes on nominees to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and the EPA.

The votes are now scheduled for July 12. EPW had originally slated the markup for Wednesday before rescheduling it to noon today.

NRC nominees Annie Caputo and David Wright, and EPA nominee Susan Parker Bodine, who has been tapped as assistant administrator of the office of enforcement and compliance assurance, are awaiting committee approvals.

Lawmakers will also consider legislation to reauthorize and tweak aspects of EPA's popular brownfields program and a bill reauthorizing the Diesel Emissions Reduction Act, which helps retrofit diesel-powered equipment.

WHAT'S NEXT: EPW has rescheduled the markup for the morning of July 12.

To view online click here.

Back

Murkowski: Energy bill ready now for floor action Back

By Anthony Adragna | 06/29/2017 01:35 PM EDT

Senate Energy Chairwoman Lisa Murkowski says she's pushing for floor time for her new energy bill, which has only minor changes from the version that nearly made it across the finish

line last year.

"This is not brand-new stuff," the Alaska Republican told reporters today. "These are bills that have passed the committee, passed the Senate, passed the House many of them. What we've done is put them in a package and they're ready to go."

Majority Leader Mitch McConnell has taken procedural steps to allow the bill to bypass committee, but he has not yet scheduled a floor debate.

Murkowski said there had been minor changes to energy efficiency provisions in the bill she introduced Wednesday, S. 1460, particularly to ensure "building codes truly are voluntary." Ranking member Maria Cantwell agreed only "minor things" had been changed in the bill.

Senate and House lawmakers pushed until the last minute last December to iron out differences between the bipartisan Senate bill and a House companion that cleared the lower chamber with mostly Republican votes, before Speaker Paul Ryan ultimately pulled the plug on those efforts.

Text of the latest energy package has not yet been released.

WHAT'S NEXT: Murkowski said she had some "talking to do with trying to find some time" on the Senate schedule, but the measure won't need to go through the committee process again.

To view online click here.

Back

Thune: Crunched calendar could trip up FAA floor timing Back

By Lauren Gardner | 06/29/2017 12:39 PM EDT

Sen. John Thune today acknowledged that the unknown floor schedule for Republicans' Obamacare repeal-and-replace effort could complicate moving an FAA bill through the chamber next month.

"Probably some of that comes down as well to what we can work out, and if we can get the bill in a condition where people are willing to support it, and it's not going to require a full week on the floor, then maybe we'll process it" in July, he said.

"But right now the number of days that we have available to us before the August break are somewhat limited, and things that we have to do in that period are going to be, I think, fairly time-consuming, so we'll see," he added.

Thune said he wouldn't rule out an attempt to use the bill (S. 1405) to put the Senate on the record on House Transportation Chairman Bill Shuster's proposal to spin air traffic control operations away from the FAA and into the hands of a nonprofit corporation. "I don't know what

our members might decide to do," he said.

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TRUMP'S EPA: Agency at a crossroads -- Complete coverage

November 9, 2017

Latest News

After Election Wins, Environmentalists Tout Clean Energy Democrats In '18

Environmentalists say their successful efforts to help elect two Democratic governors and other state-level candidates who favor a clean energy and environmental agenda in off-year election races Nov. 7 is buoying their strategy to back similar candidates in several gubernatorial races and a handful of Senate contests in 2018.

Democrats' Election Victories Could Boost State GHG Trading Efforts

Democrats' election victories in several key state races Nov. 7 could boost prospects for enlarging regional greenhouse gas trading programs on both the East and West coasts, bolstering climate policy advocates who are struggling to curtail Trump administration efforts to roll back EPA and other federal climate programs.

Senate Democrats Eye Political Harm For GOP With 'Hack' EPA Nominees

Senate Democrats are attacking the controversial policies of President Donald Trump's nominees for top environmental slots in a bid to tarnish the candidates as "hacks" even before they win expected Senate confirmation, so that any negative publicity they generate once in office could eventually have a negative political impact on their GOP supporters.

EPA's Critics Fault Ozone Designations In Effort To Preserve Pending Suit

Several states and environmentalists are criticizing EPA's recent delayed issuance of designations for areas attaining the 2015 ozone air standard as unlawful because it falls shorts of Clean Air Act mandates to also issue nonattainment findings, as they seek to preserve a lawsuit challenging a rescinded agency delay of the designations.

2nd Circuit Stays FERC Gas Pipeline Approval After State's CWA Concerns

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the 2nd Circuit has stayed a Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) approval to construct an interstate gas pipeline, after New York argued that FERC is seeking to usurp its Clean Water Act (CWA) authority by approving the project before the state certified whether it complies with the water

law.

Consultant Floats Tool For Reconciling Competing CWA Jurisdiction Tests

An environmental consultant is calling on EPA to craft a new software tool that could "bridge the gap" between the Obama-era study on waters' connectivity that helped drive the 2015 Clean Water Act (CWA) jurisdiction rule and critics of the rule pushing for a narrower CWA test using "objective" criteria applicable by laypeople.

Federal Climate Report Creates Additional Hurdle For GHG Risk Finding Foes

The latest federal assessment of climate change finding it "extremely likely" humans are the dominant force behind observed warming adds another political and legal hurdle for any attempt to challenge EPA's landmark 2009 greenhouse gas endangerment finding, according to several legal experts.

Daily Feed

Key Democrat seeks subpoena to obtain documents on Superfund official

A leading House Democrat is stepping up his effort to obtain information from a federal financial agency that barred EPA Superfund advisor Albert C. Kelly from serving in the banking sector.

Environmentalists blast health impacts of coal subsidy plan

Subsidizing coal plants would result "in hundreds of thousands of tons of additional emissions," Clean Air Task Force says.

Barrasso touts Carper's 'positive comments' on Wheeler

The Senate environment committee chairman is touting the ranking member's comments to *Inside EPA* offering some praise for President Donald Trump's nominee for deputy EPA chief.

Environmentalists urge EPA's counsel to bar Beck from TSCA rules

At minimum, environmentalists are seeking Beck's recusal from any further action in three TSCA section 6(a) bans that the Obama administration proposed but the Trump EPA has not yet acted on.

Ewire: Democrats' state election wins boost climate efforts

In today's Ewire: State climate programs may get a boost following Democrats' election victories. Plus: Pruitt downplays impact of climate report and drinking water contamination.

House environment panel eyeing RCRA farm waiver bill

A House panel is preparing to hold a hearing on bill that would bar Resource Conservation & Recovery Act citizen suits against farms for their animal waste practices.

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To: Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
From: Bloomberg BNA
Sent: Wed 9/13/2017 8:18:33 PM
Subject: Sep. 13 -- Energy and Climate Report - Afternoon Briefing

Energy and Climate Report

Afternoon Briefing - Your Preview of Today's News

The following news provides a snapshot of what Bloomberg BNA is working on today. Read the full version of all the stories in the final issue, published each night.

House Votes to Bar Methane Rule, Carbon Cost in EPA Funding Bill

Posted September 13, 2017, 03:56 P.M. ET

By Dean Scott

The EPA would be barred from enforcing limits on methane gas emitted by fossil fuel operations and from considering in its regulations the costs to society of carbon emissions under amendments the House passed Sept. 13.

Those prohibitions, now attached to the EPA-Interior fiscal year 2018 funding bill, face an uphill battle to become law because the Senate isn't expected to take up the House version. Republicans will have to negotiate details of any final spending agreement with Senate Democrats.

The House bill (H.R. 3354) heads to an expected Sept. 14 final floor vote. The measure would provide $7.5 billion in Environmental Protection Agency funding for fiscal year 2018, $528 million less than current-year funding but $1.9 billion above the Trump administration's request.

The amendments to block a July 2016 EPA regulation limiting emissions of methane, a potent greenhouse gas, in oil and gas operations, and another to bar the Obama-era policy of accounting for the health, environmental, and economic impact of carbon emissions in developing regulations, were offered by Rep. Markwayne Mullin (R-Okla.).

The proposal to block EPA methane limits passed 218-195; the amendment to block the weighing of the social costs of carbon emissions passed 225-186.

The EPA under President Donald Trump is seeking to roll back the methane limits, a deregulatory effort backed by the oil and gas industry, but has lost several rounds in the courts, most recently in August when a federal appeals court declined to reverse a lower court decision directing the agency to enforce the standards. Trump also has targeted the use of social cost of carbon by agencies in any policy guidance or regulations under an executive order issued in March.

Colorado Democrat Jared Polis saw his amendment to bar the administration from closing any EPA regional office rejected, 198-212. An amendment by Rep. Ralph Norman (R-S.C.) to strip another $1.87 billion from EPA's fiscal 2018 budget fell 151-260.

UN Says Hurricane Irma Shows Trump Needs to Re-Engage on Climate

Posted September 13, 2017, 8:39 A.M. ET

By Sunil Jagtiani

President Donald Trump or his successor will likely re-engage with the global fight against climate change because of the weight of scientific evidence, the head of the United Nations Environment Program said.

Europe, China and India will take the leadership role on the issue in the meantime, Erik Solheim said in an interview in Bangkok. The evolution toward renewable energy in place of fossil fuels is unstoppable, he added.

"We'll expect the Trump administration itself to come back to the climate issue, or the next president of the U.S.," Solheim said. "If you want to see the need for this, look to Houston or the Caribbean with Irma. The violence of the weather is waking up everyone."

The Trump administration last month began the formal process of exiting the Paris climate accord and is seeking to eliminate an array of climate funding, transforming the U.S. from a leader in global climate diplomacy into an outlier. Solheim said disavowing evidence of global warming, while relying on science for everything from medical advances to space exploration, is untenable over the long term.

"How can it be possible to believe in all the benefits of science in every other area, but say in this area we don't want to believe in science?" Solheim said in the interview last week.

The State Department said in August it had notified the UN that the U.S. will pull out of the Paris pact as soon as it can under the terms of the 2015 accord, adding Trump would agree to remain in the deal if it was reconfigured to be better for U.S. interests.

Hurricanes Irma and Harvey on some estimates caused total damage of about $150 billion. Irma tore through the Caribbean last week before hitting Florida, while Harvey struck southeastern Texas late August. German and British scientists said climate change made Irma much stronger.

Climate change aside, there are a number of areas where the UN environment arm and the U.S. are in agreement, such as curbing illegal trade in wildlife, Solheim said.

The UN Environment Program is trying to work more with the private sector and tap financial markets to tackle pollution, he added.

"At the end of the day that is the most important of all," Solheim said. "Unless the big money of insurance companies, banks and pension funds goes green, we will fail."

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Power Plants Get Two-Year Reprieve for Parts of Wastewater Rule

Posted September 13, 2017, 03:33 P.M. ET

By Amena H. Saiyid

Power plants won't have to meet new limits until 2020 on toxic wastewater that comes from air pollution control systems and bottom furnace ash, the EPA announced Sept. 13.

The Environmental Protection Agency said it was postponing by two years compliance dates that would be required of more than 1,000 power plants nationwide, as it reconsiders how strictly it should limit those two sources of wastewater.

The postponement, requested by electric power utilities, applies to new Obama-era limits on wastewater generated by transporting bottom ash and by operating flue gas desulfurization units used to capture sulfur dioxide emissions.

The agency's final unpublished rule follows submission of public comment on postponing the 2015 rule's compliance deadlines for all six categories of wastewater containing arsenic, selenium, nitrates, mercury, zinc, and other pollutants that more than 1,000 power plants nationwide discharge. The rule's deadlines for the four other streams will still start Jan. 1, 2018, but the compliance deadlines for these two wastestreams now will be pushed back to Jan. 1, 2020.

A national industry group that represents power plant operators, including subsidiaries of Ameren Corp. and American Electric Power, sought a deadline extension because the EPA is revising parts of a 2015 rule setting effluent limits for technology they would be required to use to treat wastewater (RIN: 2040-AF14).

Encana Subsidiary Fined for Oil, Gas Spill on Game Ranch

Posted September 13, 2017, 03:29 P.M. ET

By Tripp Baltz

An Encana Corp. subsidiary agreed to pay a $225,000 fine for spilling oil and gas on a game ranch in western Colorado.

Hunter Ridge LLC agreed to pay the fine in a settlement the Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission approved Sept. 11. The company also will clean up water and soil contaminated by a leaking pipeline at the private big game hunting reserve operated by Bishop Ranch LLC near Parachute, Colo.

Encana discovered the leak in June 2016 and immediately eliminated the source of the release, Doug Hock, spokesman for the company in Denver, told Bloomberg BNA Sept. 13. Encana has since sold all of its Colorado assets, including its interest in Hunter Ridge, he said.

Carbon Rally Hits Brick Wall as Lawmakers Wrestle Glut Fix

Posted September 13, 2017, 8:26 A.M. ET

By Mathew Carr

After the biggest jump this year, European carbon price gains are unlikely to stick.

Emission allowances will fall 14 percent this month to levels that will probably be about the same by year-end, according to the median forecast in a survey of eight traders and analysts. Last week, prices jumped to a 20-month high on optimism over reforms to strengthen the world's biggest

emissions market.

But futures fell this week as plans to limit the impact of Brexit on the 12-year-old carbon market highlighted the struggle European Union lawmakers face as they combat an oversupply. Efforts to reform the cap-and-trade system have repeatedly failed to increase the penalty for polluting, with emission prices slumping by two thirds in the past 10 years.

"It's probably not the end of the correction," said Eugen Weinberg, the head of commodities research at Commerzbank AG in Frankfurt. "Some of the gains were excessive. Whoever was speculating on higher prices are probably taking their chips off the table."

Carbon prices got a fillip earlier this month as France and Germany said they want agreement on a market overhaul before a United Nations climate meeting in Bonn in November. That was tempered this week as the EU started drafting measures to protect its trading system from the potential impact of Britain's utilities and factories leaving the market. The U.K. was the bloc's fourth-largest carbon emitter last year.

December allowances fell 1 percent this week to 7 euros ($8.39) a metric ton on the ICE Futures Europe exchange in London. The contracts rose 21 percent last week.

Prices will decline to 6 euros a ton by the end of the month and be around there by the end of the year, according to the survey. The range for the end of 2017 was 5.50 euros to 8.25 euros. Prices need to be about 16 euros a ton to encourage utilities to switch to cleaner burning natural gas from coal, according to Bloomberg calculators.

As ministers debate proposals to control the glut, including a market reserve starting in 2019, supply is still swelling. Total auction sales this year will amount to a record 951 million metric tons, a third more than last year when the bloc was withholding supply as part of a past effort to deal with the glut.

Any good news about lawmakers progressing reforms is probably already priced in, said Elchin Mammadov, an analyst with Bloomberg Intelligence in London.

"The carbon price could come down as traders take profit," Mammadov said.

—With assistance from Ewa Krukowska.

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Net Zero Plan for Carbon Sink Emissions Moves Ahead in EU

Posted September 13, 2017, 02:35 P.M. ET

By Stephen Gardner

European Union governments and landowners would have to make sure that net greenhouse gas emissions from forests and other carbon sinks remain at or below zero through 2030, under a draft regulation European Parliament approved Sept. 13.

The regulation could have an impact on agriculture, forestry, and wood-based industries such as pulp and paper, as governments and businesses implement systems to promote more sustainable

practices to ensure that their land use, land-use change, and forestry (LULUCF) emissions do not rise.

Under the regulation, EU countries' land-use emissions from 2020 to 2030 would be compared against the average of carbon emissions and removals from 2000 to 2012. Countries with net LULUCF emissions reductions between 2020 and 2025 could bank credits for use in the second half of the 2020s, or to offset emissions from sectors such as construction and transportation, which are subject to separate EU rules.

Ulrich Leberle, raw materials director of the Confederation of European Paper Industries in Brussels, told Bloomberg BNA Sept. 13 that the regulation would broadly benefit companies that process or use forest products because it would encourage active sustainable forest management and hasten the transition from "fossil-based materials being substituted by bio-based materials."

Forest resources in the EU are underutilized and the regulation would reduce the need for imported materials that might come from countries without sustainability standards, Leberle added.

Norbert Lins, a German center-right lawmaker responsible for preparing the European Parliament's position on the LULUCF regulation, said at a Sept. 13 briefing that rules on carbon sinks would complement existing EU measures on emissions trading. They would also address emissions reductions for economic sectors not covered by emissions trading. Together, all these measures would put the EU on track to meet its international climate commitment to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 40 percent by 2030 compared to 1990, Lins said.

European Parliament lawmakers sitting in Strasbourg, France, adopted the draft regulation on LULUCF Sept. 13 in a 532–144 vote, with 20 abstentions.

To be finalized, the Parliament's version of the draft regulation must be reconciled with that of the Council of the EU, which represents the governments of the bloc's 28 countries. The council has not yet agreed on its position on the draft regulation.

China Plans to Expand Ethanol Use in Vehicles Nationwide by 2020

Posted September 13, 2017, 8:15 A.M. ET

By Bloomberg News

China plans to expand the use of ethanol gasoline for vehicles nationwide by 2020 from only 11 provinces now to improve the environment and accelerate reform in the agricultural sector.

The nation's development in renewable liquid fuel is lagging behind other clean sources such as wind and solar, the National Energy Administration said in a statement on its website Sept. 13. China's stockpiles of expired grain and annual output of more than 400 million metric tons of straw and forestry waste can be use as feedstock for expanded ethanol production, it said.

Fuel in the trial provinces requires gasoline to be blended with 10 percent ethanol, a formula that will likely be expanded nationwide, Tian Miao, a Beijing-based senior analyst at Sun Hung Kai Financial Ltd., said by phone. The NEA statement didn't provide details on the mix. Biofuels accounted for only 1 percent of country's oil product consumption in 2016, according to the NEA.

"Gasoline use will definitely get a blow from the replacement," Tian said.

China has overtaken the U.S. as the biggest importer of crude as its domestic production slips and demand for transportation fuels such as gasoline grows. Oil's grip on the world's largest automobile market may also weaken as the country intends to set a deadline to end the sales of fossil-fuel powered vehicles.

The volume of gasoline impacted may be between 10 million to 15 million tons by 2020, according to Li Li, a research director with ICIS China. The country's demand for gasoline is forecast to rise by an average 5.6 percent annually through 2020, according to China National Petroleum Corp.'s Economics & Technology Research Institute.

Expansion of fuel ethanol production and use will speed up reduction of the country's corn stockpiles, Li Qiang, chief analyst with Shanghai JC Intelligence Co., said. To meet growing ethanol demand in the future, China may either import U.S. supplies for blending or even U.S. corn, Li said.

—With assistance from Sarah Chen.

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Ab Inbev Buys Enough Wind Power to Brew 20 Billion Beers

Posted September 13, 2017, 11:18 A.M. ET

By Joe Ryan

Anheuser-Busch InBev NV, the world's largest brewer, agreed to buy 152.5 megawatts from a wind farm Enel SpA is building in Oklahoma. That's enough power to make 20 billion 12-ounce (355-milliliter) bottles of beers a year.

The deal with the Thunder Ranch wind farm will supply about half of the electricity that AB InBev buys each year, up from about 2 percent now, the company said in an emailed statement Sept. 13. The move is part of the company's plan to power all its operations with renewable energy by 2025.

Enel, Italy's biggest utility, is building Thunder Ranch in Garfield, Kay and Noble counties, between Oklahoma City and the Kansas border. The project, totaling 298 megawatts, is scheduled to be operational by the end of the year.

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Energy and Climate Report

To: Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
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Subject: POLITICO Playbook, presented by the Coalition for Affordable Prescription Drugs (CAPD): TICK-TOCK on the GOP's health-care 'flop' -- HOW TRUMP can turn it around -- PRO-TRUMP group pulls ads -- FAHRENTHOLD strikes again -- SPOTTED last night in ASPEN -...

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Today's POLITICO Playbook presented by the Coalition for Affordable Prescription Drugs (CAPD)
06/28/2017 07:02 AM EDT

By JAKE SHERMAN (sherman@politico.com; @JakeSherman), ANNA PALMER (anna@politico.com; @apalmerdc) and DANIEL LIPPMAN (daniel@politico.com; @dlippman)

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Driving the Day

BULLETIN -- WJLA: "Officials: Amtrak train hits, kills 2 CSX employees on tracks in D.C., service suspended": "Amtrak has suspended all service between Philadelphia and D.C. because of the incident. The D.C. Fire Department say they were called to the 1200 block of New York Avenue at around 11:55 p.m. and found the two victims. They were pronounced dead at the scene." http://bit.ly/2uhJX4m

Good Wednesday morning. THE QUOTE REPUBLICANS IN D.C. ARE TALKING ABOUT -- DONALD TRUMP at the top of a meeting with Republican senators about health care Tuesday afternoon: "This will be great if we get it done. And if we don't get it done, it's just going to be something that we're not going to like. And that's OK, and I understand that very well."

A MAJORITY, BUT FOR WHAT? -- THIS IS SUPPOSED TO BE DONALD TRUMP AT HIS STRONGEST. He became president in an election that shocked the political system. **YET** most of his legislative goals remain far off. Tax reform remains undone. They have not repealed or replaced Obamacare. Passing an infrastructure bill remains just a goal. They have not funded a massive border wall. Congress hasn't passed a budget and is squirming to strike a deal to lay out a fiscal blueprint. One White House insider pointed to Neil Gorsuch's confirmation as Trump's principal legislative achievement.

MESSAGE TO 1600 -- HOW YOU CAN TURN IT AROUND (per several of the top GOP operators in and out of government) -- Stop setting artificial legislative deadlines. You spend a lot of time on media critiquing. Use some of that time to talk about the substance of the legislation you want to pass -- and sell it. Yes, your base loves the

media bashing, and it's fun television for some. But now you have to pass bills. That's what governing is. And your base for that task is Washington insiders, who need to feel pressure -- or fear. The president clearly likes rallies -- cool, who doesn't? Hold a series of themed rallies to make the public case for what you want to do. At least try to have the president stick to the script. Convince Republican leadership on the Hill to pass some small-ball legislation you can sign -- use Rahm Emanuel's "Six for 06" as a model.

THE POLITICO TICK TOCK -- HOW HEALTH CARE FELL APART -- BURGESS EVERETT, JEN HABERKORN and **JOSH DAWSEY: "Inside the GOP's health care flop":** "Senate Republicans had no inkling of what they were walking into on Tuesday afternoon as they filed into the Mike Mansfield room on the Capitol's second floor. Mitch McConnell's 51 colleagues, from his most junior members to his closest lieutenants, fully expected the Senate to vote this week on the Senate GOP's wounded Obamacare repeal bill. They knew the whip count was far worse than advertised, but were ready for McConnell to either admit defeat or make a furious round of deal-making to try to win their support.

"They took McConnell at his word that a vote would occur, regardless of the result. Then the Kentucky Republican shocked them all as he dispassionately informed them at the top of the meeting that the vote would be delayed, and that he would continue the painful exercise of trying to get 50 of the caucus's 52 votes for Obamacare repeal. Never mind that McConnell and his team had previously made clear that they did not believe letting the bill hang out over the July 4 recess would improve the result of the perilous negotiations. 'It's different from what he said ... yesterday afternoon as late as 5:30 p.m.,' said a Republican senator. ...

"'Tinkering isn't going to work, from my perspective. There would have to be a major overhaul of the bill ... to win my support,' [Maine Sen. Susan] Collins said. ... 'The truth is, we're not even close. This is not, like, a couple of tweaks,' the aide said." http://politi.co/2sfQ2S2

-- A NOTE: Collins seems pretty dug in. As does Sen. Dean Heller (R-Nev.). The margin here is super slim.

GREAT DETAILS - per NYT's Glenn Thrush and Jonathan Martin: "When asked by reporters clustered on the blacktop outside the West Wing if Mr. Trump had command of the details of the negotiations, Mr. McConnell ignored the question and smiled blandly. ... A senator who supports the bill left the meeting at the White House with a sense that the president did not have a grasp of some basic elements of the Senate plan - and seemed especially confused when a moderate Republican complained that opponents of the bill would cast it as a massive tax break for the wealthy, according to an aide who received a detailed readout of the exchange. Mr. Trump said he planned to tackle tax reform later, ignoring the repeal's tax implications, the staff member added." http://nyti.ms/2uhcaYY

--"How Governors From Both Parties Plotted to Derail the Senate Health Bill," by

NYT's Alex Burns: http://nyti.ms/2tjZ2EZ

-- "How Schumer kept Dems united on Obamacare: The Senate Democratic leader worked closely with senators and activist groups to keep pressure on the GOP -- and won at least a temporary victory as the repeal bill stalled," by Seung Min Kim and Elana Schor. http://politi.co/2tjjhmj

A CHEAT SHEET FOR MCCONNELL AND W.H. LEG AFFAIRS -- "5 changes McConnell can make to get repeal bill on track," by Adam Cancryn: http://politi.co/2tj9Vrb

SENATE MAJORITY LEADER MITCH MCCONNELL, one of the steadiest and most reliable leaders and vote counters Washington has seen, did the unthinkable and rattled his ranks. The Kentucky Republican had told lawmakers there would be a vote this week on health care, but instead -- just as Speaker Paul Ryan was forced to do three months ago -- decided to delay voting on the package after it was clear that GOP opposition to the health care package was stronger than expected.

MCCONNELL has been impervious to the types of problems Ryan faces on a weekly -- and sometimes daily -- basis. His decision to delay voting on a bill is a sign he couldn't, or didn't want to expend the political capital to get it done before the July 4th break. It's unclear what he can do to change the calculus among the growing bloc of senators unwilling to vote for the bill.

THE BIG PROBLEM -- "Poll: Fewer than 4-in-10 voters back GOP health bill," by Steven Shepard: "Just 38 percent of voters approve of the Republican plan to repeal and replace Obamacare, according to a new POLITICO/Morning Consult poll conducted before Senate leaders pulled the latest version of their bill in an effort to win over more GOP votes. That's fewer than the 45 percent who disapprove of the Republican health care bill. Another 17 percent say they don't know or have no opinion of the bill." http://politi.co/2tnGRPC

DAN BALZ'S TAKE -- "'Repeal and replace' was once a unifier for the GOP. Now it's an albatross." http://wapo.st/2uhu2ms

REPUBLICANS V. TRUMP -- "Senate GOP seethes at Trump impulsiveness," by Alex Isenstadt and Josh Dawsey: "Top GOP officials and senators say White House chaos and impulsiveness are crippling efforts to expand the Republican Senate majority in 2018, unraveling long-laid plans and needlessly jeopardizing incumbents. There's a widespread sense of exasperation with the president, interviews with nearly two dozen senior Republicans reveal, and deep frustration with an administration they believe doesn't fully grasp what it will take to preserve the narrow majority or add to it.

"The most recent flash point involves Nevada Sen. Dean Heller, who was attacked by a White House-sanctioned outside group after announcing his opposition to the now stalled Obamacare repeal bill. Heller, the most endangered GOP incumbent up for

reelection in 2018, was initially targeted with a surprise $1 million digital, TV, and radio assault - an act of political retaliation that stunned both senators and other top GOP officials." http://politi.co/2tiLzhe

... BUT -- "Pro-Trump group pulls ads criticizing Heller over Obamacare," by Alex Isenstadt: "A pro-Trump outside group will pull its ads assailing GOP Sen. Dean Heller over his opposition to the now stalled Obamacare repeal bill -- a move that follows massive backlash from senior Republicans who called on the organization to stop attacking the Nevadan. America First Policies had begun airing TV and radio ads on Tuesday savaging Heller for his planned 'No' vote, with spots charging that Heller had broken his 'promise' to voters that he would dismantle Obamacare -- a stunning attack on a member of the president's own party and the most vulnerable Republican up for re-election in 2018.

"But on Tuesday evening -- just a few hours after the TV and radio ads went up and after Senate Republicans tossed plans to vote on the legislation this week -- the group, which is staffed with several of the president's top campaign aides, decided to stop running the ads, two senior Republicans familiar with the decision told POLITICO." http://politi.co/2sksU06c

****** **A message from the Coalition for Affordable Prescription Drugs (CAPD):** A new study found that pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs) reduced spending in Medicare Part D by 58 percent in 2014, driving down costs for the government, taxpayers, and beneficiaries. The study forecasts that PBMs will save $1,800 per Medicare beneficiary, per year over the next ten years. Learn more at affordableprescriptiondrugs.org ******

PHIL RUCKER, BOB COSTA and **ASHLEY PARKER: "Who's afraid of Trump? Not enough Republicans -- at least for now":** "'This president is the first president in our history who has neither political nor military experience, and thus it has been a challenge to him to learn how to interact with Congress and learn how to push his agenda better,' said Sen. Susan Collins (R-Maine), who opposes the current health-care bill. ...

"Trump's lieutenants ... have struggled to force Republicans into line. In March, when House Republicans were slow to rally behind the health-care bill, White House chief strategist Stephen K. Bannon told Freedom Caucus members that they must stop waffling and vote for the legislation. Bannon was immediately rebuffed by Rep. Joe Barton (R-Tex.), who has been in the House for more than three decades. Barton icily told Bannon that the only person who ordered him around was 'my daddy' - and that his father was unsuccessful in doing so, according to several Republicans with knowledge of the meeting.

"In an interview Tuesday, Barton smiled wryly when asked about the incident. 'I will admit on the record that I took exception to a comment that he made,' Barton said. 'There is a separation of powers, and the president has a role and the Congress has a

role. That's all I'll say.'" http://wapo.st/2tjBsII

RAISE YOUR HAND IF YOU WANT TO BE POOLER! -- "Macron Invites Trump to Paris for Bastille Day," by NYT's Aurelien Breeden in Paris: "They have had their differences, but when President Emmanuel Macron of France and President Trump spoke by telephone on Tuesday about the threat of a new chemical weapons attack by Syria, Mr. Macron seized the opportunity and invited Mr. Trump to Paris for Bastille Day.

"It was not immediately clear whether Mr. Trump would accept the invitation, which was also extended to his wife, Melania, according to a statement from the Élysée Palace. But the traditional military parade in Paris on this Bastille Day, July 14, will also commemorate the 100th anniversary of America's entry into World War I to fight alongside the French, British and other Allies." http://nyti.ms/2s0ZKne

FOR YOUR RADAR -- "New cyberattack wallops Europe; spreads more slowly in U.S.," by AP's Raphael Satter in Paris and Frank Bajak in Houston: "A new and highly virulent outbreak of data-scrambling software -- apparently sown in Ukraine -- caused disruption across the world Tuesday. Following a similar attack in May, the fresh cyber-assault paralyzed some hospitals, government offices and major multinational corporations in a dramatic demonstration of how easily malicious programs can bring daily life to a halt. Ukraine and Russia appeared hardest hit by the new strain of ransomware - malicious software that locks up computer files with all-but-unbreakable encryption and then demands a ransom for its release.

"In the United States, the malware affected companies such as the drugmaker Merck and Mondelez International, the owner of food brands such as Oreo and Nabisco. Its pace appeared to slow as the day wore on, in part because the malware appeared to require direct contact between computer networks, a factor that may have limited its spread in regions with fewer connections to Ukraine." http://apne.ws/2skJgFO

-- REUTERS' PHIL STEWART and **IDREES ALI: "Exclusive: Trump administration eyes hardening line toward Pakistan":** "President Donald Trump's administration is exploring hardening its approach toward Pakistan to crack down on Pakistan-based militants launching attacks in neighboring Afghanistan, two U.S. officials tell Reuters. Potential Trump administration responses being discussed include expanding U.S. drone strikes, redirecting or withholding some aid to Pakistan and perhaps eventually downgrading Pakistan's status as a major non-NATO ally, the two officials said, speaking on condition of anonymity." http://reut.rs/2sgl2Sd

WHAT PAUL MANAFORT WAS UP TO -- "Manafort registers as foreign agent," by Theo Meyer: "The firm headed by Paul Manafort, President Donald Trump's former campaign chairman, made more than $17 million working as a foreign agent of a pro-Russian Ukrainian political party, according to newly filed disclosure reports. Trump forced Manafort to step down from his campaign last year after The Associated Press reported that Manafort and another Trump campaign official, Rick Gates, had secretly helped the Ukrainian Party of Regions steer money to two Washington lobbying firms

through a nonprofit." http://politi.co/2sPokug

TRUMP INC. -- "Trump attorney Jay Sekulow's family has been paid millions from charities they control," by WaPo's Aaron Davis and Shawn Boburg: "President Trump's personal attorney Jay Sekulow was on his weekday radio show this month, defending the president vociferously, when he took a pause to highlight a charity that has brought Sekulow and his family millions of dollars. 'Let me take off the hat of the president's lawyer and put on the ACLJ hat,' he said, using the acronym for the American Center for Law and Justice. His June 16 program then cut to a plea for donations from audience members listening on 850 stations nationwide. 'Now, more than ever,' a narrator said, 'you need the ACLJ on your side.' ...

"[The ACLJ brought in] $230 million in charitable donations from 2011 to 2015 -- and millions of those dollars ended up going to the members of the Sekulow family or their companies, a Washington Post analysis of IRS tax filings and business records in five states and the District found.

"Through a complex arrangement involving ACLJ and another charity, $5.5 million was paid directly to Sekulow and five family members in salary or other compensation, tax records covering those years show. Another $7.5 million went to businesses owned by Sekulow and his sister-in-law for producing and consulting on TV, movie and radio shows, including his weekday program, 'Jay Sekulow Live!' And $21 million went to a small law firm co-owned by Sekulow, records show." http://wapo.st/2sPXqlV

WHAT NANCY PELOSI IS READING -- "Poll: Dems not ready to dump Pelosi," by Steven Shepard: "Washington Democrats are pointing fingers after last week's special election defeat in Georgia, but the party's voters aren't ready to jettison House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, according to a new POLITICO/Morning Consult poll.

"While Pelosi (D-Calif.) remains among the most unpopular figures in American politics, few Democratic voters in the survey blame her for Democrat Jon Ossoff's defeat last week or for Democratic losses in 2010, 2014 and 2016. Overall, 43 percent of voters think Pelosi should be replaced as Democratic leader, compared with only 26 percent who think she should remain in the post. Three in 10 voters say they don't know or don't have an opinion.

"But among Democratic voters, just over a quarter, 27 percent , want Pelosi booted as the party's leader in the chamber. That's fewer than the 41 percent who want Pelosi to stay, and the 31 percent who don't have an opinion." http://politi.co/2tnUXAN

HOT IN GOP LEADERSHIP -- "L.A.'s newest congressman still hasn't taken his oath. Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy wants to know why," by Sarah D. Wire in the L.A. Times: "House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy (R-Bakersfield) wants to know why Rep.-elect Jimmy Gomez hasn't been sworn in, saying the seat's 'elongated vacancy' is 'an abdication' of his responsibilities.

"Twenty one days have passed since Gomez won a special election to replace now-California Atty. Gen. Xavier Becerra, who resigned Los Angeles' 34th Congressional District last January. Gomez, a current Democratic state assemblyman, told The Times after the election he would try to delay his Assembly resignation to vote on extending the state's cap-and-trade program, which requires companies to buy permits to release greenhouse gas. Negotiations on cap and trade are escalating in Sacramento, and there are rumblings Gov. Jerry Brown would like to be able to count on Gomez' vote to pass the bill with a two-thirds majority before the Legislature leaves on July 21." http://lat.ms/2sgD06K

VIDEO DU JOUR -- @CaitrionaPerry: "Video of the bizarre moment when President @realDonaldTrump called me over during his call with Taoiseach @campaignforLeo Varadkar. @rtenews" **- *25-second video*** http://bit.ly/2tXdP6A

TRUMP'S WEDNESDAY -- TRUMP "will lead a tribal, State, and local energy roundtable," and then will host the Chicago Cubs at the White House. Trump will meet with "immigration crime victims to urge passage of House legislation to save American lives." In the evening, he'll attend the RNC dinner at the Trump International Hotel.

THE JUICE ...

-- FIRST IN PLAYBOOK: WENDY SHERMAN, the under secretary of State for political affairs in the Obama administration, is joining NBC News and MSNBC as a "global affairs contributor." "[S]he will speak about diplomacy and international relations, as well as share her expertise on North Korea."

Playbook Reads

TRUMP INC. -- "Making Ivanka Trump shoes: Long hours, low pay and abuse," by AP's Erika Kinetz in Ganzhou, China: "A worker with blood dripping from his head marked a low point in the tense, grinding life at a southeastern China factory used by Ivanka Trump and other fashion brands. An angry manager had hit him with the sharp end of a high-heeled shoe. Workers from the factory, including one current and two former employees who spoke to The Associated Press, reported overtime that stretched past midnight, steep production quotas and crude verbal abuse at Ganzhou Huajian International Shoe City Co. They said beatings were not unheard of, but the shoe attack, which all three say they witnessed last year, was violent enough to stand out." http://apne.ws/2tWLkG2

L.A. TIMES -- "Border wall prototypes could start going up in San Diego this summer, U.S. official says," by Joseph Tanfani: "The Trump administration is at least two months away from starting construction of prototypes for a wall along the Southwest border, underscoring the difficulties the White House faces making good on one of the

president's key campaign promises.

"Customs and Border Protection still has not signed any contracts to build prototypes of new barriers, a first step in plans to design and erect a wall along the 2,000-mile Mexico border, Ronald Vitiello, acting deputy commissioner at the agency, told reporters Tuesday. He said construction of four to eight prototypes could begin by late summer. All will be built near the San Diego-area border fence. 'We're evaluating proposals now.' he said. 'We think it's summer. It's kind of hard to nail down.'" http://lat.ms/2sQnm0w

2018 WATCH -- "Midterms loom over Mueller's Russia probe: Comey's handling of Clinton email investigation poses challenge for special counsel working amid 2018 campaign," by Darren Samuelsohn: "Special counsel Robert Mueller has only just begun investigating whether President Donald Trump's campaign colluded with Russia in last year's election and whether Trump himself obstructed justice, but there are already fears that he'll face pressure to reveal his conclusions before the 2018 midterms. While it's unclear how long it will take Mueller to wrap up his investigation, veterans of past White House scandals say that with the midterms already being framed as a referendum on Trump's presidency, both Republicans and Democrats can be expected to push Mueller to go public with whatever he has before voters go to the polls." http://politi.co/2sfSAQd

DEPT. OF BIG STATEMENTS -- "Fed's Yellen expects no new financial crisis in 'our lifetimes,'" by Reuters: "U.S. Federal Reserve Chair Janet Yellen said on Tuesday that she does not believe that there will be another financial crisis for at least as long as she lives, thanks largely to reforms of the banking system since the 2007-09 crash. 'Would I say there will never, ever be another financial crisis?' Yellen said at a question-and-answer event in London. 'You know probably that would be going too far but I do think we're much safer and I hope that it will not be in our lifetimes and I don't believe it will be,' she said." http://reut.rs/2sg2Fwv

****** **A message from the Coalition for Affordable Prescription Drugs (CAPD)**: A new study projects pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs) will save Medicare Part D $896 billion over ten years. PBMs drive savings for taxpayers and seniors by negotiating discounts from drug manufacturers; by encouraging the use of lower cost, clinically equivalent drugs; and by providing clinical programs that improve health outcomes. Learn more at affordableprescriptiondrugs.org ******

AMBASSADOR WATCH -- "Delays stack up for Trump in filling ambassador posts," by Nancy Cook and Nahal Toosi: "President Donald Trump said before he took office that he planned to choose New York Jets owner Woody Johnson, a campaign supporter and old friend, as his ambassador to Britain. But it took until this week for the White House to formally submit Johnson's nomination to the Senate. So far, Trump has nominated 20 ambassadors, with six confirmed, including the ambassador to the United Nations, according to the American Foreign Service Association. By this point in their first terms, President Barack Obama had nominated 40 ambassadors with three

confirmed excluding the UN ambassador, while President George W. Bush had nominated 27, with three confirmed, according to statistics compiled by the non-partisan Partnership for Public Service.

"The Trump administration is taking 77 days on average to confirm ambassadors to countries, while Obama nominees 26 days and Bush's 11, according to the Partnership for Public Service. The slow pace of selecting key American representatives abroad is hurting the U.S. diplomatically, as foreign leaders try to suss out the administration's worldview and their place within it, according to interviews with more than a dozen foreign policy experts, current and former ambassadors, and sources familiar with the hiring process." http://politi.co/2tVuwPX

MEDIAWATCH -- "Sinclair VP donated to Gianforte after 'body-slam' incident," by Hadas Gold: "The vice president and director of Sinclair Broadcasting Group, which has often been criticized for its conservative slant, donated to Rep. Greg Gianforte's campaign the day after the Montana Republican was charged with assaulting a reporter. The donation of $1,000 by Frederick G. Smith, a member of the family that owns the company, came on May 25, the day Gianforte was elected ... Smith also gave $1,000 to Gianforte's campaign in March. On May 24, Gianforte assaulted Guardian reporter Ben Jacobs as Jacobs attempted to ask Gianforte a question about the healthcare bill, breaking Jacobs' glasses and sending him to the hospital for X-rays." http://politi.co/2tnL5GW

DAVID FAHRENTHOLD STRIKES AGAIN -- "A Time magazine with Trump on the cover hangs in his golf clubs. It's fake": "The framed copy of Time magazine was hung up in at least five of President Trump's clubs, from South Florida to Scotland. Filling the entire cover was a photo of Donald Trump. 'Donald Trump: The "Apprentice" is a television smash!' the big headline said. Above the Time nameplate, there was another headline in all caps: 'TRUMP IS HITTING ON ALL FRONTS ... EVEN TV!' This cover [is] dated March 1, 2009. ... The Time cover is a fake. There was no March 1, 2009, issue of Time magazine. And there was no issue at all in 2009 that had Trump on the cover." http://wapo.st/2sl9N5X

-- "The Washington Post's New Social Media Policy Forbids Disparaging Advertisers ," by Washingtonian's Andrew Beaujon: "A new social-media policy at the Washington Post prohibits conduct on social media that 'adversely affects The Post's customers, advertisers, subscribers, vendors, suppliers or partners.' In such cases, Post management reserves the right to take disciplinary action 'up to and including termination of employment.' The Post's Guild sent out a bulletin Sunday night protesting the policy. ... [T]he policy ... went into effect on May 1 and applies to the entire company." http://bit.ly/2tjtzCW

Playbookers

SPOTTED: Eliot Spitzer last night at Off the Record at the Hay Adams ... former Vermont Gov. Howard Dean in a private room at Carmine's with LaToia Jones and several others ... Ivanka and Jared at Kinship yesterday ... Gary Cohn having dinner last night with friends at Le Diplomate ... Scott Pruitt was also spotted there at another table ... Steve Wynn smoking a cigar yesterday upon arriving Trump International Hotel DC - he's in town for tonight's RNC fundraiser with President Trump and First Lady Melania on Wednesday at the hotel (the fundraiser costs $35K per person and $100K to host) ... Oil baron Harold Hamm dining last night at Trump Hotel's BLT Prime ...

... Sen. Thad Cochran (R-Miss.) dining with a group on the Trattoria Alberto patio Tuesday night. Sen. Tammy Baldwin (R-Wis.) was also spotted leaving the restaurant separately. Rep. Blake Farenthold (R-Texas) popped in for dinner later. ... Rep. Marcia Fudge (D-Ohio) chatting on her cell phone on 8th Street near Banana Cafe around 8 p.m. ... Jonathan Capehart and Nick Schmit dining with Chris Jansing last night at Kinship

-- **@MattLaslo:** "Illinois Rep. Adam Kinzinger is at tonight's Cubs/Nationals game and has had his back to the field the entire time at a table in outfield" http://bit.ly/2tntWNx

OUT AND ABOUT IN ASPEN - The Paul E. Singer Foundation held a dinner last night focused on driverless cars at Laura and Gary Lauder's home in Aspen (***pic of the house:*** http://bit.ly/2uhEIXJ). In a panel discussion before the meal, Amnon Shashua, co-founder and CTO of Israeli technology company Mobileye (which Intel bought for $15 billion), talked about the future of driverless cars and predicted that in 2021, you would see them available for purchase. Moderator David Leonhardt reminded the crowd that there are around 1000 deaths every nine days due to car accidents. Shashua said companies have to ensure that the technology advances far enough that there are under 100 deaths each year from self-driving cars. He said the public would not allow "1,000 people to die" every year because of the new technology. He also said that four months ago, Uber was a big player in self-driving cars but now "it's uncertain" because of Travis Kalanick's departure. "It's like firing Steve Jobs from Apple," he said. Another word of wisdom from him: "Companies that don't master AI in won't be around in 10 to 15 years."

SPOTTED: Haim Saban chatting with Andrea Mitchell and Richard Haass, Cheryl Saban, Karen Davidson, Paul Singer, Terry Kassel, Amnon Shashua, Dan Senor, Campbell Brown, Walter Isaacson, New Orleans Mayor Mitch Landrieu, Katie Couric and John Molner, Ory Rinat, Bonnie Lautenberg and Steve Leber, Mitch Julis, Amb. John Loeb, Blain Rethmeier, former U.S. Amb. to Canada Bruce Heyman, Eugene Kandel, Derek Thompson, Dafna Linzer, Susan Mercandetti, Bob and Susan Oberndorf, Max Neuberger, Eliot Gerson, David Zalaznick, Henry Elkus.

-- SPOTTED at a Facebook reception last night at the Marble Garden Tent on the Aspen Institute grounds: Campbell Brown, Samidh Chakrabarti, Walter Isaacson, Kitty Boone, Richard Haass, Jon Lovett, Manoush Zomorodi, Kevin Delaney, Anil Dash, Anne Kornblut, Dafna Linzer, Steve Clemons, Carl Zimmer, Simon Sinek, Garrett Graff,

Lee Rainie, Charles "Lil Buck" Riley, Blain Rethmeier, Erika Masonhall, Erin Miller, Max Neuberger, Jonathan Taplin, Doug Farrar, Graham Veysey.

--SPOTTED at the nearby Southern Company reception last night: Fareed Zakaria chatting with Steve Clemons, Ory Rinat chatting with Kyle Dropp and Amy Walter, Southern Company CEO Tom Fanning, Blain Rethmeier chatting with Gloria Dittus and Emily Lenzner, Eric Kuhn.

ENGAGED - Hayley Andrews, director of government affairs at the Charles Group and travel blogger at Navigate Abroad (http://bit.ly/2tjP2ff), got engaged yesterday to **Eugene Gelfgat,** a lieutenant in the Army. He proposed inside the Grand Canyon after they flew in on a helicopter. They met as GW students on a Birthright Israel trip to Israel in 2010. ***Pics*** http://bit.ly/2tjDwjZ ... http://bit.ly/2t00FFY ... ***The ring*** http://bit.ly/2s0HfiS

TRANSITIONS -- PR firm Strategic Elements has hired **Diane Miller** as senior adviser. Last year Miller founded the virtual think-tank Women's Influence Institute ... Red Alert Politics has hired **Lauren Cooley** as contributors' editor.

BIRTHDAY OF THE DAY: Jane Harman, director, president and CEO of the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars. How she got her start in politics: "Attended the 1960 convention as a high school kid and was totally inspired by John Kennedy." Read her Playbook Plus Q&A: http://politi.co/2sQ9fZ9

BIRTHDAYS: Marc Kasowitz is 65 ... Ashley Hickey Marquis, chief of staff to NEC director Gary Cohn, who celebrated with a weekend BBQ and tonight at Mirabelle with her husband Garrett (hubby tip: Garrett) ... NYT's David Kirkpatrick is 47 ... former Defense Secretary Leon Panetta is 79 ... former Sen. Carl Levin (D-Mich.) is 83 ... Laura D'Andrea Tyson, professor at Berkeley's Haas business school ... Ziad "Z" Ojakli, Ford Group VP of gov't and community relations (h/t Christin Baker) ... Bill Greener, founding partner of Greener & Hook LLC ... AP's Jesse Holland ... Climatewire's Scott Waldman ... former Rep. Donna Edwards (D-Md.) is 59 ... former Rep. Michael Fitzpatrick (R-Penn.) is 54 ... former Rep. Jim Kolbe (D-Ariz.) is 74 ... journalist and author Kurt Eichenwald is 56 ... Stephanie Benedict, who has been crisscrossing the country for the Clinton campaign ... IJR's Erin McPike (h/t Alex Skatell) ... Nancy Payne, VP of PeaceTech Lab, former OPIC and FleishmanHillard International (h/t Ben Chang and Jon Haber) ... Carolyn Coda of Swiss Re (hubby tip: Rich Ward) ... Steve Johnson, EVP of American Airlines and an avid Playbooker (h/ts Hilary Rosen and Shannon Gilson) ...

... Stephanie Benedict, alum of Waxman, HFA, and Albright Stonebridge, celebrating with family in San Luis Obispo, CA (h/t mom Paula Benedict) ... Lara Kline (h/t Jon Haber) ... Brian L. Roberts, chairman and CEO of Comcast is 58 (h/t Jewish Insider) ... Mike Lurie, senior creative advisor at Freedom Partners, is 3-0 (h/t his loving girlfriend Rebecca Coffman) ... B. Scott Tilley, general counsel at Stihl Inc. and former Capitol Hill intern (h/t Bruce Potter) ... John Lee is 24 ... Peter Nonis of the Business Council for International Understanding ... Rob Tappan, president of the Tappan Group ... Coddy Johnson is 41 ... Pelosi policy adviser Kenneth DeGraff ... Jason Roe is 47 ... Brian

Jodice ... Paul Bonicelli ... Yaffa Fredrick, CNN Opinion producer ... Megan Bloomgren, VP of comms at API and former acting comms director at Interior earlier this year ... Daisy Capps ... Matt Mele ... Al Eisele ... Aaron Banks ... Bob Russell ... Quinn McCord ... Kevin Kaiser ... Jing Ulrich, managing director and vice chairman, Asia Pacific at JPMorgan Chase ... Sean Bartel ... AP Florida reporter Brendan Farrington ... Cecilie Olaussen ... Nick Anton ... Dusky Terry ... Brenda Vilmain ... Meagan Mahaffey ... Chuck Shuford ... Dave Olsen ... Eli Reyes ... Christina Martin ... John Elway is 57 ... Eric Zwiener ... GPG's Jas Sajjan ... comedian-movie director Mel Brooks is 91 ... Kathy Bates is 69 ... John Cusack is 51 (h/ts AP)

****** **A message from the Coalition for Affordable Prescription Drugs (CAPD):** A new study estimates that Medicare Part D costs would be 58 percent higher without pharmacy benefit managers' (PBMs') clinical tools and price negotiations with drug manufacturers and pharmacies. The study shows PBMs significantly lower premiums and out-of-pocket costs for Medicare beneficiaries. In fact, PBMs are projected to save Medicare Part D $896 billion over the next decade. Thanks to PBMs, Medicare Part D continues to drive savings and value for taxpayers and beneficiaries, ensuring that more than 39 million American seniors can access the prescription drugs they need. Learn more at affordableprescriptiondrugs.org ******

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May 31, 2017

Latest News

Amid Reports Of Paris Departure, Trump Extends Uncertainty Over Decision

President Donald Trump is seeking to extend the uncertainty over his ultimate decision on whether to withdraw from the United Nations Paris Agreement on climate change after media reports escalated that he has decided to exit and agreement supporters swiftly denounced the move as a "historic mistake" and a "grave threat" to the planet.

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To: Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
From: InsideEPA/climate
Sent: Wed 7/12/2017 11:35:11 PM
Subject: Today on Climate Beat

July 12, 2017

Today on Climate Beat . . .

. . . we went on the road again, reporting that California's legislative leaders are delaying a vote on their cap-and-trade bill until July 17, hoping to use the additional time to convince Gov. Jerry Brown to support unrelated housing legislation.

Also, the American Coalition for an Energy-Efficient Economy is urging policymakers to preserve the tractor trailer requirements in EPA's final phase 2 truck greenhouse gas rule, arguing that the first-time regulation of trailers in the Obama-era rule is key to improving long-haul truck efficiency.

In Congress, the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee on a party-line vote approved the nomination of Susan Bodine to head EPA's enforcement office, with Democrats continuing to express broader concerns about the willingness of agency officials to respond to their oversight requests.

And our daily news roundup looked at key exchanges in a wide-ranging interview EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt gave to Reuters, including EPA's authority to regulate greenhouse gases, its negotiation with California on vehicle GHG standards and his reaction to the agency's recent court loss over its bid to pause oil and gas methane standards.

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To: Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
From: Bloomberg BNA
Sent: Wed 9/13/2017 8:09:08 PM
Subject: Sep. 13 -- Daily Environment Report - Afternoon Briefing



Daily Environment Report

Afternoon Briefing - Your Preview of Today's News

The following news provides a snapshot of what Bloomberg BNA is working on today. Read the full version of all the stories in the final issue, published each night. The Bloomberg BNA Daily Environment Report is brought to you by EPA Libraries. Please note, these materials may be copyrighted and should not be forwarded outside of the U.S. EPA. If you have any questions or no longer wish to receive these messages, please contact Josue Rivera-Olds at rivera-olds.josue@epa.gov, 202-566-1558.

Power Plants Get Two-Year Reprieve for Parts of Wastewater Rule

Posted September 13, 2017, 03:33 P.M. ET

By Amena H. Saiyid

Power plants won't have to meet new limits until 2020 on toxic wastewater that comes from air pollution control systems and bottom furnace ash, the EPA announced Sept. 13.

The Environmental Protection Agency said it was postponing by two years compliance dates that would be required of more than 1,000 power plants nationwide, as it reconsiders how strictly it should limit those two sources of wastewater.

The postponement, requested by electric power utilities, applies to new Obama-era limits on wastewater generated by transporting bottom ash and by operating flue gas desulfurization units used to capture sulfur dioxide emissions.

The agency's final unpublished rule follows submission of public comment on postponing the 2015 rule's compliance deadlines for all six categories of wastewater containing arsenic, selenium, nitrates, mercury, zinc, and other pollutants that more than 1,000 power plants nationwide discharge. The rule's deadlines for the four other streams will still start Jan. 1, 2018, but the compliance deadlines for these two wastestreams now will be pushed back to Jan. 1, 2020.

A national industry group that represents power plant operators, including subsidiaries of Ameren Corp. and American Electric Power, sought a deadline extension because the EPA is revising parts of a 2015 rule setting effluent limits for technology they would be required to use to treat wastewater (RIN: 2040-AF14).

UN Says Hurricane Irma Shows Trump Needs to Re-Engage on Climate

Posted September 13, 2017, 8:39 A.M. ET

By Sunil Jagtiani

President Donald Trump or his successor will likely re-engage with the global fight against climate change because of the weight of scientific evidence, the head of the United Nations Environment Program said.

Europe, China and India will take the leadership role on the issue in the meantime, Erik Solheim said in an interview in Bangkok. The evolution toward renewable energy in place of fossil fuels is unstoppable, he added.

"We'll expect the Trump administration itself to come back to the climate issue, or the next president of the U.S.," Solheim said. "If you want to see the need for this, look to Houston or the Caribbean with Irma. The violence of the weather is waking up everyone."

The Trump administration last month began the formal process of exiting the Paris climate accord and is seeking to eliminate an array of climate funding, transforming the U.S. from a leader in global climate diplomacy into an outlier. Solheim said disavowing evidence of global warming, while relying on science for everything from medical advances to space exploration, is untenable over the long term.

"How can it be possible to believe in all the benefits of science in every other area, but say in this area we don't want to believe in science?" Solheim said in the interview last week.

The State Department said in August it had notified the UN that the U.S. will pull out of the Paris pact as soon as it can under the terms of the 2015 accord, adding Trump would agree to remain in the deal if it was reconfigured to be better for U.S. interests.

Hurricanes Irma and Harvey on some estimates caused total damage of about $150 billion. Irma tore through the Caribbean last week before hitting Florida, while Harvey struck southeastern Texas late August. German and British scientists said climate change made Irma much stronger.

Climate change aside, there are a number of areas where the UN environment arm and the U.S. are in agreement, such as curbing illegal trade in wildlife, Solheim said.

The UN Environment Program is trying to work more with the private sector and tap financial markets to tackle pollution, he added.

"At the end of the day that is the most important of all," Solheim said. "Unless the big money of insurance companies, banks and pension funds goes green, we will fail."

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Cities Swimming in Raw Sewage as Hurricanes Overwhelm Systems

Posted September 13, 2017, 8:12 A.M. ET

By Jennifer A. Dlouhy and Ari Natter

Hurricane Harvey took aim at one of the nation's most industrial regions, releasing a stream of toxic pollutants from chemical plants, refineries and Superfund sites in Texas. But when its bigger sister Irma slammed into Florida, environmental alarms rang over a different kind of discharge: raw sewage.

Millions of gallons of poorly treated wastewater and raw sewage flowed into the bays, canals and city streets of Florida from facilities serving some of the nation's fastest-growing counties. More than 9 million gallons of releases tied to Irma have been reported as of late Sept. 12 as inundated plants were submerged, forced to bypass treatment or lost power.

Such overflows, which can spread disease-causing pathogens, are happening more often, as population shifts and increasingly strong storms strain the capacity of plants and decades-old infrastructure. The Environmental Protection Agency estimated last year that $271 billion is needed to maintain and improve the nation's wastewater pipes, treatment plants and associated infrastructure.

"There's no sewer system in the world that can be built that's completely leak proof," said Nathan Gardner-Andrews, chief advocacy officer for the National Association of Clean Water Agencies. Plants generally are designed to handle twice their normal capacity, but "when you get some of these rain events and you're talking four to six to eight inches of rain in an hour, the engineering is such that you cannot build a system to hold that capacity."

A treatment facility in Clearwater, Fla., discharged 1.6 million gallons of wastewater into a creek, according to filings with the state's Department of Environmental Protection. The incident, which occurred after a power line snapped, was just a trickle compared to a 30-million-gallon discharge of raw sewage after Hurricane Hermine caused a pump failure in 2016, said David Porter, the city's public utilities director.

That scene was replayed across the state this week, as electrical outages caused lift station pumps to stop running in St. Petersburg and Orlando, prompting at least 500,000 gallons of overflows. A pipeline broke in Miramar, Fla., sending sewage spilling across a parkway as contractors hunted for the rupture. And operators of a Miami-area wastewater treatment plant blamed a power outage for 6 million gallons of sewage released into Biscayne Bay.

Late Tuesday, there was no visible sewage or garbage in the Biscayne Bay water along Brickell, Fla., but in nearby Bayfront Park, the air was heavy with a foul odor.

As wastewater treatment lagged, utilities across the state warned residents to boil water before drinking it. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency said it has deployed specialists to Florida to help get wastewater systems back online.

Estimated releases of untreated and poorly treated wastewater tied to both Irma and Harvey are expected to continue climbing. Even Hurricanes Hermine and Matthew—modest by comparison to this season's double whammy—forced the release of some 250 million gallons of wastewater without full treatment between Aug. 31 and Oct. 15, 2016, according to a report by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection.

After Hurricane Sandy ravaged the northeast U.S. in 2012, damaged treatment plants and pumping stations caused untreated sewage to flow into local waterways for weeks. All told, facilities in the eight states hardest hit by the super storm released 11 billion gallons of untreated and partially treated sewage, according to one assessment.

Wastewater treatment facilities are especially vulnerable to flooding because they are traditionally built in low-lying areas, near whatever river or waterway they discharge into. That approach works in normal conditions, but coastal treatment plants increasingly are outmatched during intense downpours and fierce storms, especially amid rising sea levels.

“Any time there is a large event—any kind of flood—they get overwhelmed and you have these raw sewage discharges,” said Ken Kopocis, who served as the top official in the EPA’s water office under President Barack Obama.

That influx can overcome treatment facilities as well as the sewer systems designed to ferry water to them. In Middleburg, Fla., Sept. 12, a pretreatment system overflowed amid rising floodwaters, with a reported 250,000 gallons of untreated liquid released. Workers blocked off culverts to try and contain the spill and set up pump stations to pull water from ditches so it could be treated.

Normal flood stage at the site near Black Creek is 24 to 25 feet, but water was set to climb three feet higher. “We’ve never seen flooding like this,” said Dennis Martin of the Clay County Utility Authority.

Sewage discharges carry both health and economic risks, as officials may order the closing of affected beaches and rivers for swimming and boating long after storm clouds have passed. When untreated water or raw sewage is spilled, it can deliver toxic chemicals from roads, E. coli from human waste and other pathogens that have the potential to cause viruses, parasitic infections, rashes and other health conditions.

“We focus on the water and the flooding and the impacts to homes and everything else, which is super important,” said Danielle Droitsch, a program director with the Natural Resources Defense Council. “But understanding environmental contamination issues is more complicated. We don’t necessarily see the pollution, sometimes you can’t smell it and yet it’s there.“

Treatment plants are designed to remove most pollutants from wastewater before it is discharged—frequently into the same rivers used to supply drinking water to communities downstream. Initial treatment is focused on removing solid waste, pulling out heavier sludge after it settles in massive tanks and skimming off floating grease, plastics and other materials. A secondary, microbial treatment is meant to remove dissolved organic compounds, with hungry bacteria chewing through lingering contaminants.

During rainy storms and floods, inundated utilities generally focus on treating as much wastewater as possible, sometimes bypassing the secondary, microbial cleaning process when they near max capacity.

‘Protect those bugs’

“The secondary treatment process is a very finely tuned group of organisms and bacteria, and if you get too much flow through this secondary process, it kills all your bugs,” Gardner-Andrews said. “So what you’re trying to do as a treatment plant operator during these extreme events is protect those bugs at all cost so once the rain goes away and the waters get back to normal you’re back online immediately.“

Many parts of Florida and Texas face infrastructure challenges even when they aren’t deluged by rain because of rapid population growth. Some of the nation’s fastest-growing counties are in the hurricane zone, according to U.S. Census data compiled by Bloomberg.

Four of the 10 fastest-growing coastal counties in the eastern U.S. are in Florida. The Miami-Fort Lauderdale-West Palm Beach metropolitan area grew by 9 percent, adding about 500,000 people from 2010 to 2016. And St. Johns County, south of Jacksonville, grew by almost 24 percent during the same time frame, adding roughly 45,000 people.

Aging infrastructure may not be able to keep up with the demands of a surging southern population. In many cases, such as in south Florida, elements of the sewer system range from 60 to 70 years old, with pipelines that are even older, said Kelly Cox, a staff attorney and program director for the environmental group Miami Waterkeeper.

"You throw a hurricane on top of that, and you are starting to see a lot more problems," she said.

To become more resilient, utilities need to assess their risks and take action such as building berms, constructing dikes or adding elevation, Kopocis said, but "this stuff isn't necessarily cheap."

Some solutions may lie well beyond the treatment plants themselves. Cities constructed of impermeable concrete and pavement can encourage more ecologically sustainable development—everything from green roofs to more porous materials.

Local government officials and utilities also are lobbying Congress to pack wastewater spending into a broad infrastructure package, reminding lawmakers that already aging plants are going to be taxed by more frequent, more intense storms.

"If these outlier events are now going to become the norm, then we really need to be looking significantly at how do we make these utilities more resilient." Gardner-Andrews said. "These weather events are a perfect example of why water in general needs to be a critical part of any infrastructure package."

—With assistance from John McCormick, Terrence Dopp, Bailey Lipschultz and Nathan Crooks.

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Hurricanes Highlight Failure to Enforce Flood Insurance Rules

Posted September 13, 2017, 12:18 P.M. ET

By Christopher Flavelle

As the floodwaters of Hurricanes Harvey and Irma recede, they may reveal more than moldy drywall and fetid trash. They could lay bare the federal government's failure to police a basic tenet of its own disaster policy: that properties with -government-backed mortgages in risky areas carry flood insurance. The government has known for decades that homeowners in flood zones often don't have the insurance they should. Just two years ago, the Federal Emergency Management Agency estimated that as few as half of the 1.5 million residential structures required to carry flood insurance actually do. It can't be sure, though: FEMA isn't responsible for tracking that kind of data—nor is any other agency.

"This is a huge blind spot," says Samantha Medlock, a senior adviser to President Obama on flood insurance policy. Homeowners with lapsed insurance could "mistakenly believe that if their luck runs out, the federal government will come in and take care of them," she says.

The magnitude of the risk is revealed partly by the numbers of uninsured homes in the paths of the recent storms. More than 80 percent of homeowners in the Texas counties hit by Harvey lack flood insurance, according to a Washington Post analysis. In Florida, FEMA estimated in 2015 that as many as 43 percent of those required to have coverage didn't. And as climate change and coastal development increase the number of homes at risk, it's becoming harder for the federal government

to keep ignoring the problem.

When a mortgage is issued, the lender is supposed to check whether the home is in a flood plain, and if so, it should require the owner to acquire insurance. When that mortgage is sold to investors, the company that services it must make sure the premiums are paid or pay them through escrow. If the coverage lapses, the servicer is supposed to buy coverage on the homeowner's behalf, then add the premiums to the mortgage payments.

Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac, and government entities own or guarantee 60 percent of U.S. mortgages. Lisa Tibbitts, a spokeswoman for Freddie Mac, says the insurer conducts yearly reviews of its loan portfolio, including rates of flood insurance coverage. "These reviews reveal a very low percentage of noncompliance," she says.

And yet, since 2012, the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, which regulates federal banks, has fined at least 27 institutions for failing to meet their obligations on flood insurance. Experts in flood insurance policy say the process appears to break down after the mortgage is made. Homeowners required to carry insurance typically keep paying their premiums for just two to four years, said University of Pennsylvania researchers in a 2012 study.

"There are plenty of areas to pass the buck in the chain of mortgage finance," says Nela Richardson, chief economist for Redfin Corp. "That's what makes it ultimately hard to track." The National Mortgage Servicing Association, a trade group that represents servicers, didn't respond to a request for comment. Four of the five largest servicers as identified by Inside Mortgage Finance declined to provide information about how many of their mortgages even require flood insurance, let alone how many comply. About 4 percent of mortgages at Wells Fargo & Co., the country's largest servicer, require the insurance, according to spokesman Tom Goyda. He declined to say how many of those homeowners had stopped paying their premiums or how much time typically goes by between a policy lapsing and Wells Fargo finding out about it.

Mortgage lenders and servicers that are lax about flood insurance tend to be penalized lightly. In March 2013 the OCC, which regulates federal banks, determined that Amarillo National Bank had been making or renewing loans without requiring the necessary flood insurance. The fine? All of $7,250. In July 2015, Sumner National Bank of Sheldon in Illinois was fined just $3,000 for allegedly engaging in a pattern of "making, modifying, or renewing loans" without requiring coverage. First Federal Community Bank in Dover, Ohio, got dinged for $1,800. The banks neither admitted nor denied liability.

Ignoring flood insurance could soon become more costly for the mortgage industry, says Carolyn Kousky, a flood insurance expert at the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania. "So far there hasn't been enough of a default risk to motivate lenders to do more on their own, voluntarily, but we're seeing worse and worse events," she says. "After Harvey, we might see a different kind of response."

That's because uninsured homeowners with severe damage may decide their only option is to abandon the property and stop making mortgage payments. "If you've lost your home and you don't have insurance, that's a good time to walk away from your property," said R.J. Lehmann, an insurance expert at the R Street Institute, a libertarian research organization in Washington.

Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac can force servicers to buy mortgages they've sold or had guaranteed if they don't have the required flood insurance, according to the Federal Housing Finance Agency. Susan Wachter, a professor of finance at Wharton, says that's true—but it only works if the servicer has the money. And as flood events increase, so does the risk that individual servicers, which

increasingly aren't banks, will run out of funds.

"Servicers may be contractually on the line, but if they don't have the capital, then they can't pay up," Wachter says, adding that taxpayers could be further exposed if clusters of homes default at the same time, reducing the value of houses around them.

Some experts have suggested that the federal government should require all homes to have flood insurance. Another possibility is to have policies last as long as 10 years.

Whatever the fix, Harvey and Irma have given the federal government a brief window to change its policy.

"We can capitalize on this," says Howard Kunreuther, a director of the Risk Management and Decision Processes Center at Wharton. "If you don't take advantage after a disaster, you're missing a critical opportunity."

—With assistance from Heather Perlberg, Joe Light, and Jeanna Smialek

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Hunting, Species Protections Cut in Bill Approved at House Panel

Posted September 13, 2017, 03:42 P.M. ET

By Brian Dabbs

Hunters and gun enthusiasts would face fewer restrictions on using their weapons on federal land under a broad legislative package the House Natural Resources Committee approved Sept. 13, despite unanimous Democratic opposition.

The hunting and fishing bill, sponsored by Rep. Jeff Duncan (R-S.C.) would indefinitely bar the Environmental Protection Agency from regulating lead metal shots and tackle, which environmental groups argue contaminate fish.

In a 22-13 vote, the panel approved the package to expand gun rights on federal land and ease fishing restrictions, while rejecting measures to permanently authorize the Land and Water Conservation Fund and study the environmental effects of a Mexico border wall.

Duncan's bill also broadly expands protections for firearm use on federal land and decreases the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives's authority to regulate rifle ammunition and silencers.

Republicans tout the bill as a boost to lawful recreation activities, but that position isn't shared across the aisle.

Rep. Raul Grijalva (D-Ariz.), the ranking member on the committee, blasted the bill as a service to the National Rifle Association, and other Democrats followed suit. "This is the worst legislation I've come across in my time in Congress," Rep. Lacy Clay (D-Mo.) said.

Gray Wolf Protections Dropped

Committee members rejected 13-22 an attempt to block the legislation's instruction to delist the western Great Lakes gray wolf population from Interior Department protections.

The Democratic amendment intended to counteract a decision by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit last month that said the Fish and Wildlife Service, an agency within the Interior Department, failed to follow legal requirements in assessing the consequences of listing the species.

The Interior Department removed protections for the western Great Lakes gray wolf in 2011, claiming the population had recovered adequately. The legislation also would remove the gray wolf Wyoming population from protective status. The D.C. Circuit appeals court earlier this year gave the Interior Department the option to remove protections for that population.

The Land and Water Conservation Fund permanent reauthorization amendment failed 12-22, while the border wall amendment failed 12-22. Grijalva sponsored both amendments. The committee postponed consideration of several other Endangered Species Act bills originally planned for votes.

Encana Subsidiary Fined for Oil, Gas Spill on Game Ranch

Posted September 13, 2017, 03:29 P.M. ET

By Tripp Baltz

An Encana Corp. subsidiary agreed to pay a $225,000 fine for spilling oil and gas on a game ranch in western Colorado.

Hunter Ridge LLC agreed to pay the fine in a settlement the Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission approved Sept. 11. The company also will clean up water and soil contaminated by a leaking pipeline at the private big game hunting reserve operated by Bishop Ranch LLC near Parachute, Colo.

Encana discovered the leak in June 2016 and immediately eliminated the source of the release, Doug Hock, spokesman for the company in Denver, told Bloomberg BNA Sept. 13. Encana has since sold all of its Colorado assets, including its interest in Hunter Ridge, he said.

Carbon Rally Hits Brick Wall as Lawmakers Wrestle Glut Fix

Posted September 13, 2017, 8:26 A.M. ET

By Mathew Carr

After the biggest jump this year, European carbon price gains are unlikely to stick.

Emission allowances will fall 14 percent this month to levels that will probably be about the same by year-end, according to the median forecast in a survey of eight traders and analysts. Last week, prices jumped to a 20-month high on optimism over reforms to strengthen the world's biggest emissions market.

But futures fell this week as plans to limit the impact of Brexit on the 12-year-old carbon market highlighted the struggle European Union lawmakers face as they combat an oversupply. Efforts to reform the cap-and-trade system have repeatedly failed to increase the penalty for polluting, with

emission prices slumping by two thirds in the past 10 years.

"It's probably not the end of the correction," said Eugen Weinberg, the head of commodities research at Commerzbank AG in Frankfurt. "Some of the gains were excessive. Whoever was speculating on higher prices are probably taking their chips off the table."

Carbon prices got a fillip earlier this month as France and Germany said they want agreement on a market overhaul before a United Nations climate meeting in Bonn in November. That was tempered this week as the EU started drafting measures to protect its trading system from the potential impact of Britain's utilities and factories leaving the market. The U.K. was the bloc's fourth-largest carbon emitter last year.

December allowances fell 1 percent this week to 7 euros ($8.39) a metric ton on the ICE Futures Europe exchange in London. The contracts rose 21 percent last week.

Prices will decline to 6 euros a ton by the end of the month and be around there by the end of the year, according to the survey. The range for the end of 2017 was 5.50 euros to 8.25 euros. Prices need to be about 16 euros a ton to encourage utilities to switch to cleaner burning natural gas from coal, according to Bloomberg calculators.

As ministers debate proposals to control the glut, including a market reserve starting in 2019, supply is still swelling. Total auction sales this year will amount to a record 951 million metric tons, a third more than last year when the bloc was withholding supply as part of a past effort to deal with the glut.

Any good news about lawmakers progressing reforms is probably already priced in, said Elchin Mammadov, an analyst with Bloomberg Intelligence in London.

"The carbon price could come down as traders take profit," Mammadov said.

—With assistance from Ewa Krukowska.

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China Plans to Expand Ethanol Use in Vehicles Nationwide by 2020

Posted September 13, 2017, 8:15 A.M. ET

By Bloomberg News

China plans to expand the use of ethanol gasoline for vehicles nationwide by 2020 from only 11 provinces now to improve the environment and accelerate reform in the agricultural sector.

The nation's development in renewable liquid fuel is lagging behind other clean sources such as wind and solar, the National Energy Administration said in a statement on its website Sept. 13. China's stockpiles of expired grain and annual output of more than 400 million metric tons of straw and forestry waste can be use as feedstock for expanded ethanol production, it said.

Fuel in the trial provinces requires gasoline to be blended with 10 percent ethanol, a formula that will likely be expanded nationwide, Tian Miao, a Beijing-based senior analyst at Sun Hung Kai Financial Ltd., said by phone. The NEA statement didn't provide details on the mix. Biofuels accounted for

only 1 percent of country's oil product consumption in 2016, according to the NEA.

"Gasoline use will definitely get a blow from the replacement," Tian said.

China has overtaken the U.S. as the biggest importer of crude as its domestic production slips and demand for transportation fuels such as gasoline grows. Oil's grip on the world's largest automobile market may also weaken as the country intends to set a deadline to end the sales of fossil-fuel powered vehicles.

The volume of gasoline impacted may be between 10 million to 15 million tons by 2020, according to Li Li, a research director with ICIS China. The country's demand for gasoline is forecast to rise by an average 5.6 percent annually through 2020, according to China National Petroleum Corp.'s Economics & Technology Research Institute.

Expansion of fuel ethanol production and use will speed up reduction of the country's corn stockpiles, Li Qiang, chief analyst with Shanghai JC Intelligence Co., said. To meet growing ethanol demand in the future, China may either import U.S. supplies for blending or even U.S. corn, Li said.

—With assistance from Sarah Chen.

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Net Zero Plan for Carbon Sink Emissions Moves Ahead in EU

Posted September 13, 2017, 02:35 P.M. ET

By Stephen Gardner

European Union governments and landowners would have to make sure that net greenhouse gas emissions from forests and other carbon sinks remain at or below zero through 2030, under a draft regulation European Parliament approved Sept. 13.

The regulation could have an impact on agriculture, forestry, and wood-based industries such as pulp and paper, as governments and businesses implement systems to promote more sustainable practices to ensure that their land use, land-use change, and forestry (LULUCF) emissions do not rise.

Under the regulation, EU countries' land-use emissions from 2020 to 2030 would be compared against the average of carbon emissions and removals from 2000 to 2012. Countries with net LULUCF emissions reductions between 2020 and 2025 could bank credits for use in the second half of the 2020s, or to offset emissions from sectors such as construction and transportation, which are subject to separate EU rules.

Ulrich Leberle, raw materials director of the Confederation of European Paper Industries in Brussels, told Bloomberg BNA Sept. 13 that the regulation would broadly benefit companies that process or use forest products because it would encourage active sustainable forest management and hasten the transition from "fossil-based materials being substituted by bio-based materials."

Forest resources in the EU are underutilized and the regulation would reduce the need for imported materials that might come from countries without sustainability standards, Leberle added.

Norbert Lins, a German center-right lawmaker responsible for preparing the European Parliament's position on the LULUCF regulation, said at a Sept. 13 briefing that rules on carbon sinks would complement existing EU measures on emissions trading. They would also address emissions reductions for economic sectors not covered by emissions trading. Together, all these measures would put the EU on track to meet its international climate commitment to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 40 percent by 2030 compared to 1990, Lins said.

European Parliament lawmakers sitting in Strasbourg, France, adopted the draft regulation on LULUCF Sept. 13 in a 532–144 vote, with 20 abstentions.

To be finalized, the Parliament's version of the draft regulation must be reconciled with that of the Council of the EU, which represents the governments of the bloc's 28 countries. The council has not yet agreed on its position on the draft regulation.

Ab Inbev Buys Enough Wind Power to Brew 20 Billion Beers

Posted September 13, 2017, 11:18 A.M. ET

By Joe Ryan

Anheuser-Busch InBev NV, the world's largest brewer, agreed to buy 152.5 megawatts from a wind farm Enel SpA is building in Oklahoma. That's enough power to make 20 billion 12-ounce (355-milliliter) bottles of beers a year.

The deal with the Thunder Ranch wind farm will supply about half of the electricity that AB InBev buys each year, up from about 2 percent now, the company said in an emailed statement Sept. 13. The move is part of the company's plan to power all its operations with renewable energy by 2025.

Enel, Italy's biggest utility, is building Thunder Ranch in Garfield, Kay and Noble counties, between Oklahoma City and the Kansas border. The project, totaling 298 megawatts, is scheduled to be operational by the end of the year.

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Dow Soybeans Opposed in EU; Monsanto Corn Wins in Italy

Posted September 13, 2017, 03:15 P.M. ET

By Stephen Gardner

The European Union should stop importing Dow AgroSciences' genetically modified soybean products because it encourages greater use of hazardous herbicides in non-EU countries, the European Parliament said Sept. 13.

Lawmakers voted 433-216 in favor of the nonbinding resolution to halt imports of food and feed derived from the Dow soybeans (DAS-68416-4).

The Parliament doesn't have the authority to block the approval of the soybean—that power rests with regulatory committees of member states—but regularly adopts resolutions objecting to approved genetically modified crops on the grounds that the bloc's system for authorizations is flawed and undemocratic.

The regulatory committees commonly deadlock on whether to go ahead with approvals because EU countries are divided on genetically modified crops. In such cases, the European Commission, the EU's executive arm, adopts the authorizations if the European Food Safety Authority has found the genetically modified crops to be safe.

Regulatory committees of EU country representatives examined the bloc's authorization of the Dow soybean, and the "file is now on the desk of the Commission for final EU import authorization," Filip Cnudde, Dow's EU government affairs and science policy leader, told Bloomberg BNA.

Dow "regrets" that the Parliament continues to adopt nonbinding resolutions "against biotech products," even though the European Food Safety Authority has cleared the products' safety, Cnudde said.

'Based on Science'

The Parliament also said Dow's soybeans shouldn't be approved because they are resistant to herbicides containing 2,4-dichlorophenol, which is classified in the EU as harmful to skin and toxic to aquatic life. The chemical's use in non-EU countries could rise if cultivation of the soybean increases to meet the bloc's demand, the lawmakers' resolution said.

The chemical "may be present" in imported soybeans and soy products and could pose a risk to reproductive health, according to the lawmakers' resolution.

Industry group EuropaBio said in a statement to Bloomberg BNA Sept. 13 that, in line with the EU approvals system, the commission should authorize the soybean based on the European Food Safety Authority's positive assessment.

Cnudde said the commission should "keep the approval process based on science."

Court Backs Monsanto Corn

In a separate development, the EU Court of Justice Sept. 13 ruled that Italy wrongly adopted emergency measures in 2013 that blocked the country's cultivation of Monsanto's MON810 genetically modified corn.

Italian authorities adopted an emergency ban on environmental and health grounds, despite the European Food Safety Authority finding MON810 to be safe. Italian farmers that subsequently cultivated MON810 were prosecuted.

EuropaBio told Bloomberg BNA that the ruling sent "an important signal in favor of science-based decision making, and against bans of safe products," but would not have a "direct impact" on genetically modified crops in the EU.

The EU Court of Justice said in a Sept. 13 statement that such an emergency ban could not be implemented "where it is not evident that genetically modified products are likely to constitute a serious risk to human health, animal health, or the environment."

The EU updated its rules on cultivation of genetically modified crops in 2015 to allow EU countries to opt-out of EU-level authorizations, thus making use of emergency measures to block cultivation redundant. Subsequently, 19 EU countries including Italy implemented opt-outs for all or part of their

territory.

Juliette Leroux, an official with the Green political group in the European Parliament, told Bloomberg BNA Sept. 13 that the 2015 rules meant the Court of Justice's ruling was "not really relevant anymore," because it related to now obsolete legislation.

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Today's POLITICO Playbook presented by Morgan Stanley

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Driving the Day

FOR YOUR AWARENESS -- SEN. RAND PAUL (R-KY.) tweeted stories from the Washington Examiner and Breitbart, which both called into question his neighbor's story that their altercation was based on a disagreement on landscaping. **INQUIRING MINDS WANT TO KNOW --** So, what really happened? ***Breitbart*** http://bit.ly/2zoDuL1 ... ***Washington Examiner*** http://washex.am/2ykHjgo

Good Thursday morning. FROM 30K FEET -- There is trouble brewing on Republicans' push for tax reform. Not only will the Senate Republicans package being released today differ significantly from the House bill -- Trump said Democrats will like it better! -- but House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Kevin Brady is dealing with his own issues over concerns the bill provides massive tax cuts for corporations while individual industries are lobbying to keep their own tax breaks. To further complicate things, Republicans have a massive revenue shortfall they need to plug up. **STILL IN THE MIX:** Including a repeal of the individual mandate to buy health insurance, which raises shy of $400 billion in revenue, but would complicate the political calculus in the Capitol.

OF COURSE: Tax reform will have a million twists and turns, as does any massive legislation, before getting passed. But any delay on the House's schedule could complicate the White House's timeline to pass an overhaul of the tax code before the end of the year. Much of this is choreographed -- House and Senate are in close touch -- but lawmakers' reaction to two different bills cannot be predicted.

-- TWO THINGS WORKING IN THEIR FAVOR: The Republican drubbing Tuesday night at the polls has GOP lawmakers very nervous about their own reelection prospects and facing voters without a single legislative accomplishment. ***Read Kyle***

Cheney and Seung Min Kim. http://politi.co/2ztzEzN

... AND -- POLITICO/MORNING CONSULT POLL: "Poll: Support for GOP tax plan ticks down but remains positive," by Steven Shepard: "Among registered voters who said they have seen, read or heard about the tax proposal, 45 percent support the proposal, down from 48 percent last week. The percentage of voters who have heard about the proposal who oppose it held steady at 36 percent, the poll shows. ... The most popular element of the tax bill is increasing the child tax credit from as much as $1,000 per child, to $1,600 per child: Three-in-five voters (60 percent) say it should be in the bill." http://politi.co/2zqgMlH

ABOUT THE HOUSE WHIP COUNT -- RACHAEL BADE: "GOP leadership will whip the tax bill early next week to determine how many votes they still need. They're also discussing whether to hold the chamber in session until the tax bill passes -- perhaps even through the weekend. Leaders have their work cut out for them. While they won [Rep. Tom] MacArthur, they just lost Rep. Darrell Issa (R-Calif.), whose defection on Tuesday shocked senior Republicans.

"Issa and several New York Republicans are pushing to restore the state and local tax deduction frequently claimed by their constituents. Rep. Dan Donovan, another such holdout, said he and fellow Empire State Reps. Peter King and Lee Zeldin have submitted requested changes on the matter to Ways and Means." http://politi.co/2iGwaQw

-- MORE DETAILS: BRIAN FALER, SEUNG MIN KIM and **JOSH DAWSEY:** "Senate Republicans, meanwhile, plan to unveil a tax plan on Thursday that sharply diverges from the House GOP's plan, including by not fully repealing the estate tax, eliminating the state and local tax deduction and possibly changing a tax cut for unincorporated 'pass-through' companies so it is more palatable to the small business lobby than the House legislation. GOP leaders will brief the conference on the details on at 11:30 a.m. Thursday in the Strom Thurmond Room at the Capitol, according to two sources." http://politi.co/2zq291E

-- ON THE STATE AND LOCAL TAX DEDUCTION: In the House, Republicans have loads of lawmakers from high-tax states like New Jersey, New York and California, so they have to find a solution for the deductibility of state and local taxes. In the Senate, New York, New Jersey and California are all represented by Democrats, so the GOP doesn't have the same incentive to fix that problem.

CATCHING YOU UP ON TRUMP ABROAD ...

-- HIGHLIGHTS FROM JOINT PRESSER WITH CHINESE PRESIDENT XI JINPING: Trump called the U.S.-China trade relationship "very unfair and one-sided," per Andrew Restuccia. "But I don't blame China, after all, who can blame a country for taking advantage of another country for the benefit of its citizens." Instead, Trump blamed past U.S. administrations for the trade problems. Further, he said the U.S.-China trade

relationship "just doesn't work" and "is just not sustainable."

-- ON NORTH KOREA: Trump said, "China can fix this problem easily and quickly," and called on the Chinese president to "work very hard on it."

JUST POSTED -- JOSH ROGIN in WaPo, **"Inside the drive to 'make a deal' with North Korea":** "Secretary of State Rex Tillerson and his top North Korea official, Joseph Yun, have a concrete idea of how to get from here to there. Yun told an audience at the Council on Foreign Relations on Oct. 30 that if North Korea halted nuclear and missile testing for about 60 days, that would be the signal the United States needs to resume direct dialogue with Pyongyang. Yun's remarks, which were off the record, were described by two attendees. Yun declined to comment." http://wapo.st/2iH7jMr

THE FALLOUT FROM TUESDAY NIGHT'S ELECTION ...

-- "GOP faces wrenching call: Running with or away from Trump," by Alex Isenstadt: "Sweeping losses in Tuesday's elections have exacerbated a growing rift inside the GOP over whether the party's candidates should embrace President Donald Trump in next year's midterms - or make a clean break. With Trump's approval ratings cratering in swing states across the country, some senior party strategists are imploring lawmakers to abandon the president. Others argue that shunning Trump and his populist base is simply out of the question and that anything other than a full embrace of the president will spell electoral disaster.

"In the Virginia gubernatorial race, Republican Ed Gillespie tried to have it both ways - with disastrous consequences. Gillespie, who privately agonized about the degree to which Trump should be involved in the contest, refused to campaign with the president. But at the same time, he trumpeted Trump's culture war issues in ads. White House advisers spent Wednesday combing through the election results and fuming about Gillespie's have-it-both ways approach. By keeping Trump at arm's length, they said, Gillespie squandered an opportunity to motivate conservatives whose support he needed." http://politi.co/2zqY2Co

-- "'Canary in the coal mine': Republicans fear Democratic wins mean more losses to come," by WaPo's Bob Costa and Phil Rucker: "A wave of Democratic victories ignited a ferocious debate across the Republican Party on Wednesday over whether President Trump's un-or-tho-dox behavior and polarizing agenda are jeopardizing the GOP's firm grip on power in Congress, governors' mansions and state legislatures.

"The recriminations sparked by Tuesday's results -- a decisive rebuke of Trump and his policies in Virginia and elsewhere -- threatened the fragile GOP push to pass sweeping tax cuts by the end of the year and raised deeper questions about Republican identity and fealty to a historically unpopular president. A year ahead of the 2018 midterm elections, Republicans are increasingly uncertain about keeping their majorities on Capitol Hill and are worried about how damaging Trump's jagged brand of politics

may become to the party." http://wapo.st/2znW06l

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ELENA SCHNEIDER: "Data points out of Virginia confirm Republicans' fears that bubbled under the surface all year, which special election victories in safely red seats 'glazed over,' said a senior GOP aide. But 'now there's [electoral] evidence that there's reason to really worry.' Swing voters in suburban counties outside Washington and Richmond soured on Republicans up and down the Virginia ballot, an ominous sign for dozens of suburban Republicans in Congress, while the progressive base poured out to vote in high numbers. College-educated voters backed Democratic Gov.-elect Ralph Northam with 60 percent of their votes, according to exit polls. ...

"Tuesday's result are also serving as a reality check for members who may be considering retirement during a cycle that's become increasingly difficult for Republicans to raise money. Nearly three dozen GOP incumbents were outraised by Democratic challengers in the third quarter of this year, as the liberal base continues to pour money into first-time candidates." http://politi.co/2hW7p32

--"What the Hell Just Happened in Virginia?" -- POLITICO Magazine: "Did Democrats win? Or did Republicans lose? And what role did Trump play? 17 political watchers dissect the election results." http://politi.co/2iGZExF

POTENTIAL 2018 TRENDLINE -- "Democratic women sweep into office in state elections," by Maggie Severns: "Female candidates swept into office in Virginia and other elections around the country Tuesday, giving Democrats the first taste of a force reshaping their party in the first year of President Donald Trump's administration. Women running for office for the first time may have wrested control of the Virginia House of Delegates from Republicans, who held the chamber since the 20th century. Another female Democrat flipped the Washington state Senate to her party's control, alongside Democratic women who picked up state legislative seats in Georgia and Michigan, while Manchester, N.H. elected its first Democratic mayor in decades in Joyce Craig - who is also the city's first-ever female mayor.

"The Virginia races especially, some of which are currently in the recount process, outperformed Democrats' wildest expectations before the 2017 elections. And as the party looks ahead to 2018, that success has prompted progressives, pro-abortion groups and Democratic candidate recruiters to double down on encouraging female candidates and running on issues like women's health and equal pay in the midterm elections and beyond." http://politi.co/2hnrlz7

GOOD SCOOP -- "This Megadonor Has Spent Millions On Republicans. Now He's Thinking About Running Against One," by BuzzFeed's Tarini Parti: "Republican

megadonor Foster Friess was busy writing checks to GOP candidates, contemplating the future of health care, and getting coffee with liberals for his campaign to 'restore civility' in politics last month, when he got an unexpected call from President Trump adviser and provocateur Steve Bannon. 'I get this call, "Foster would you consider running against [Wyoming Sen. John] Barrasso?" And I said, 'What's your name?' 'Steve Bannon?' Because we're pretty much strangers, it kind of struck me as how did he even get my name or my number?' Friess, a multimillionaire investor, is now launching a 'listening tour' to help him decide whether he should challenge Barrasso -- his 'personal friend' and 'hero' -- in a GOP primary." http://bzfd.it/2yKtr3i

SEUNG MIN KIM: "McCain opposes Trump nominee over torture memos": "Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.), who has already warned President Donald Trump against bringing back torture, is vowing to reject any administration nominee who has backed so-called enhanced interrogation techniques. McCain was the sole GOP senator to vote against confirming Steven Engel to lead the Justice Department's Office of Legal Counsel earlier this week, citing his role in the controversial torture memos under the George W. Bush administration." http://politi.co/2zq0SYx

-- "U.S. Subpoenas Icahn Over Biofuel Action While Trump Adviser," by Bloomberg's Miles Weiss, Jennifer Dlouhy, and Mario Parker: "Federal investigators have issued subpoenas for information on Carl Icahn's efforts to change biofuel policy while he served as an adviser to President Donald Trump, according to regulatory filings. The U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York is 'seeking production of information' pertaining to Icahn's activities regarding the Renewable Fuel Standard ... The investigators also want information on Icahn's role as an adviser to the president." https://bloom.bg/2AnSPbE

PALACE INTRIGUE -- "The New Washington Drama: Treasury Secretary Versus Treasury Secretary," by NYT's Alan Rappeport: "Raising eyebrows in economic circles, Lawrence H. Summers, the mercurial Treasury secretary for President Bill Clinton, has leveled a barrage of increasingly personal criticism at the current Treasury secretary, Steven Mnuchin. In podcasts, blog posts, op-eds and on Twitter, Mr. Summers ... has accused Mr. Mnuchin of damaging the credibility of Treasury by making 'irresponsible' economic assessments of the administration's tax plan and acting as a 'sycophant' to President Trump. The attacks have alternately amused and angered those who run in economic circles, with some saying it is Mr. Summers who is damaging the credibility of the office by leveling public attacks on a sitting Treasury secretary." http://nyti.ms/2hmrGlh

TRUMP'S CABINET -- "Inside Betsy DeVos's efforts to shrink the Education Department," by WaPo's Moriah Balingit and Danielle Douglas-Gabriel: "The seventh floor of the Education Department's headquarters near the Mall used to bustle. Now, nearly a dozen offices sit empty and quiet. The department's workforce has shrunk under Education Secretary Betsy DeVos, who has said she wants to decrease the federal government's role in education, including investigations and enforcement of civil rights in schools. In all, the department has shed about 350 workers since December -

nearly 8 percent of its staff - including political appointees. With buyouts offered to 255 employees in recent days, DeVos hopes to show even more staff the door." http://wapo.st/2jfoPeR

CLICKER - "Look Inside the DeVos Family Office: Financial disclosures provide a rare peek inside an investment structure used by ultrawealthy families," by WSJ's Anupreeta Das and Jean Eaglesham: http://on.wsj.com/2jbcrML

MEDIAWATCH -- "Lawmakers alarmed at push to sell CNN," by Steven Overly: "Even critics of AT&T's proposed mega-merger with Time Warner expressed alarm Wednesday at allegations that President Donald Trump's Justice Department is intervening in the deal for political reasons - namely his oft-expressed complaints about CNN ... Sources familiar with the proposed merger told POLITICO that the DOJ issued an ultimatum to the companies Monday -- that they either sell Time Warner's Turner Broadcasting, which includes CNN as well as networks like TBS and TNT, or shed satellite television provider DirecTV.

"The sources said it's clear the real sticking point for the government is CNN, whose coverage of the administration has become a frequent target of Trump's anger. Unnamed DOJ officials later offered reporters a much different account, saying the companies themselves had offered to sell CNN - an option the officials said they rejected. AT&T CEO Randall Stephenson called that untrue, saying in a statement that he 'never offered to sell CNN and have no intention of doing so.'" http://politi.co/2Ap0TIS

--JAMES V. GRIMALDI and **MICHELLE HACKMAN** have won the 2017 Everett McKinley Dirksen award for Distinguished Reporting of Congress from the National Press Foundation. Per the judges: "Their investigation revealed that Rep. Tom Price, then the nominee to be HHS secretary, had traded in health stocks while pushing legislation that could affect those stocks. Reverberations from their story dominated Price's confirmation hearings and effectively put him in the crosshairs during his brief tenure at HHS." ***The winning piece*** http://on.wsj.com/2AmLFnV (h/t Morning Media)

ALTERNATE REALITY -- "What if Hillary had won? A jolly trip down memory lane, alternate-timeline edition," by WaPo's Ben Terris, Dan Zak, Monica Hesse and Amy Argetsinger: http://wapo.st/2Avuv8n

POLITICO is accepting applications for its fifth session of the POLITICO Journalism Institute, an educational initiative focused on newsroom diversity. The intensive program, which is designed for college students, will be held May 29 to June 9. It features hands-on training for up to 12 recent grads and university students interested in covering government and politics. Students also will have an opportunity to have their work published by POLITICO. All expenses are paid for the program. Admissions are made on a rolling basis, so apply today but no later than Jan. 15. http://politi.co/2zHC0Mz

Playbook Reads

[redacted]

PHOTO DU JOUR: Vice President Mike Pence and his wife Karen, visit with family and victims of the shooting at the Sutherland Spring Baptist Church as Sen. Ted Cruz, foreground right, prays with a woman on Nov. 8 in Floresville, Texas. | Eric Gay/AP Photo

SEB'S GOT A NEW JOB -- @yashar: "A Fox News spokesperson confirms that the network has hired Sebastian Gorka as a National Security Analyst."

VIDEO DU JOUR -- Steve Herman (@W7VOA): "On an iPad @POTUS played this video for President Xi showing his granddaughter singing in Chinese and reciting Analects of Confucius. This is being broadcast across #China." http://bit.ly/2yk6UG9

LATE-NIGHT BEST -- BILL CLINTON on Conan -- "On Dictators, Democracy, & Why We Need Immigrants More Than Ever" -- ***7-min. video*** http://bit.ly/2iGgvAR

PLAYBOOK INBOX -- ROGER STONE's appeal for donations to his legal defense fund http://politi.co/2ym1CKF ... ***The fund*** http://bit.ly/2iGqJB3

TRUMP INC. -- "Trump Tower Condo Prices Lag Behind Those of Similar Midtown Properties," by WSJ's Josh Barbanel: "Condominium prices are faltering at Trump Tower, President Donald Trump's property on Fifth Avenue in Manhattan, more than at similar buildings across the city. The median sale price and average price per square foot both are down sharply since 2015, when Mr. Trump launched his campaign for president, and now are plumbing depths last visited during the financial crisis." http://on.wsj.com/2hlfrFP

COURT WATCH -- "Congressional Hunger Center says employee stole $1.1 million, disappeared," by Josh Gerstein: "A hunger-focused non-profit group founded by House members lost more than $1.1 million due to embezzlement carried out by the organization's former finance director, according to a lawsuit filed in Washington on Wednesday. The Congressional Hunger Center filed suit in U.S. District Court against Mohamed Gurey, claiming the certified public accountant looted the funds as far back as 2010 by forging signatures on the group's checks and by tapping the center's bank account to make large cash withdrawals at a Maryland casino." http://politi.co/2yjx1xg

****** **A message from Morgan Stanley:** Startup Landit seeks to launch a technology platform that would enable companies to further the success of women in the workplace. Through the Morgan Stanley Innovation Lab, the firm's in-house technology startup accelerator program, Landit was able to access our networks and resources to connect with investors. Read more. ******

WILD -- "A Harvey Weinstein Operative Played Another Role," by WSJ's Mark Maremont: "'Diana Filip,' Israeli undercover operative, meet 'Diana Ilic.' A private investigator reported to be working undercover on behalf of film mogul Harvey

Weinstein was identified by two people as the same woman that The Wall Street Journal reported over the summer had used a different alias to wring information out of a critic of a large U.S. insurer. The woman in the Journal article had given her name as 'Diana Ilic.' ... The Journal, in its August article, published surveillance photos of the mystery woman, captured during a July dinner near Philadelphia with an analyst for a research firm critical of the New York-based insurer, AmTrust Financial Services Inc." http://on.wsj.com/2hfWTTL

TOP-ED -- ROBERT GATES in the NYT, "Ending DACA Will Hurt Immigrant Troops": "As we observe Veterans Day, we remember with reverence the extraordinary debt we owe to those who have served in uniform and sacrificed, even unto death, for their fellow Americans. This includes the more than 109,000 immigrants who, since Sept. 11, 2001, have become citizens while wearing the uniform of the United States military. They have been part of a rarefied group: the 1 percent of Americans - native-born, naturalized and undocumented immigrants alike - who constitute our military. All of those undocumented immigrants, through their willingness to shed blood to protect the rest of us, have earned the right to call themselves 'American citizen.'" http://nyti.ms/2AnNPUr

Playbookers

OUT AND ABOUT -- SPOTTED last night at the LBJ Liberty & Justice for All Award event honoring David Rubenstein at the National Archives (***pix*** http://smu.gs/2hUPzO4): dinner co-chairs Amb. Lloyd Hand and Cappy McGarr, award presenters Lynda Johnson Robb and Luci Baines Johnson, Larry Temple, Amy Barbee, Ben Barnes, House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.), House Minority Whip Steny Hoyer (D-Md.) Sens. Patrick Leahy (D-Vt.) and Ed Markey (D-Mass.), Dr. Susan Blumenthal, Reps. Joaquin Castro (D-Texas), Ron Kind (D-Wis.), Jim Costa (D-Calif.), Frank Pallone (D-N.J.), Lamar Smith (R-Texas), Doris Matsui (D-Calif.), Don Beyer (D-Va.), David Cicilline (D-R.I.), Debbie Dingell (D-Mich.), Marc Veasey (D-Texas), Hakeem Jeffries (D-N.Y.), Gene Green (D-Texas), Paul Tonko (D-N.Y.) and Sheila Jackson Lee (D-Texas) ...

... Julian Castro, former Sen. Tom Daschle (D-S.D.), Commissioner Mignon Clyburn, Dr. Elena and Robert Allbritton, Barbie Allbritton, Martin Frost, Lyndon Boozer, Fred Humphries, Adrienne Arsht, Jacqueline Mars, Laurie Knight, Pam Brown and Adam Wright, emcee Cokie Roberts, Tom Johnson, Leon Harris and Ben Chang.

-- Rep. Jason Smith (R-Mo.) and the Gateway IPA won last night's first annual "Brew Across America," competition organized by Anheuser-Busch. Nine lawmakers participated, including Sen. Michael Bennet (D-Colo.) and Reps. Peter Aguilar (D-Calif.), Joyce Beatty (D-Ohio), Al Lawson (D-Fla.), Barry Loudermilk (R-Ga.), John Rutherford (R-Neb.), Scott Taylor (R-Va.) and Greg Walden (R-Ore.) Paul Kane, Carl Hulse, Sue Davis, Sam Stein, Bob Cusack, Josh Dawsey and Warren Rojas served as media

judges. They were teamed up with judges representing the beer industry, led by Anheuser-Busch's Jane Killebrew, Jim McGreevey, Craig Purser, and Bill Canton.

SPOTTED: Sens. Cory Gardner (R-Colo.) and James Inhofe (R-Okla.), Reps. John Garamendi (D-Calif.), John Katko (R-N.Y.), Ron Estes (R-Kansas), Dennis Ross (R-Fla.), Ted Yoho (R-Fla.), and Ruben Gallego (D-Ariz.), as well as Joe Donoghue, Roland Foster, Andy Dockham, Justin Sok, Doug Bailey, Stef Webb, Chris Ternet.

DUELING TRUMP/CLINTON HAPPY HOURS -- SPOTTED last night celebrating the one-year anniversary of Trump's election at the Exchange by the EEOB on 17th and G streets NW: Rick Dearborn, Ory Rinat, Emily Murphy, Sean Miles, Andrew Olmem, Nick Owens, Jacob Wood, Loretta Greene, Chris Gray, Turner Bridgforth, Brennan Hart, Geoff Smith, Lenwood Brooks, Anthony Paranzino, Chris Caudill and Jim Frogue.

--SPOTTED for the Hillary alum happy hour last night at American Ice Company: Karuna Seshasai, Alex Phillips, Adrienne Watson, Christina Reynolds, Corey Ciorciari, Glen Caplin, Josh Schwerin, Lori Lodes, Lily Adams, Rob Flaherty, Tyrone Gayle, Constance Boozer, Adrienne Elrod, Carlos Sanchez, Cristobal Alex, Xochitl Hinojosa, John McCarthy, Dominic Lowell, Megan Nashban, Lauren Crawford, Alex Hornbrook, Riley Kilburg, Miryam Lipper, Sabrina Singh, Troy Perry and Bishop Garrison.

BIRTHDAY OF THE DAY: Kevin Sullivan, founder of Kevin Sullivan Communications, Inc. and senior adviser at the Bush Presidential Center in Dallas. **A fun fact about Kevin:** "In the 1980s in Dallas I once won a Rodney Dangerfield act-alike contest sponsored by a local radio station. First prize was getting to meet him backstage before his show. He shook my hand and said, 'Go ahead. Act like me!' I politely declined." **Read his Playbook Plus Q&A:** http://politi.co/2AmlwWo

BIRTHDAYS: John Harris (hat tip: Danielle Jones) ... DOJ's Sarah Isgur Flores ... Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-Ohio) is 65 ... Bob Graham, former U.S. senator and Florida governor, is 81 ... USA Today's Alan Gomez ... Shannon Currie, special assistant to Joel Benenson ... Rep. John Katko (R-NY) is 55 ... Rep. Scott Tipton (R-Colo.) is 61 ... Jake Oeth ... Peter Roff ... Jessica Stuart ... Trish Choate ... Politico's Trevor Eischen and Hugh Ferguson ... RNC alum Orlando Watson ... Claire Tonneson of Sunshine Sachs is 29 (h/t Daniel Strauss) ... HuffPo's Arthur Delaney ... No Labels founder Nancy Jacobson ... Joel Seidman, senior producer at NBC Nightly News (h/ts Jewish Insider) ... David Wolfson ... Aliza Klein ... Hal Dash ... Samara Hutman ... Matthew Ellison, LD for Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz (D-Fla.), is 29 (h/t Natalie Knight) ... László Baksay ... Tara Patel ... HFA alum Kendra Kostek ...

... Matthew Dolan ... David Mastio, deputy editorial page editor of USA Today, is 46 (h/t Bill Sternberg) ... Matthias Reynolds of Zignal Labs ... Karen Scott, Obama WH alum ... Peter Lichtenbaum, an assistant secretary of commerce under Bush 43, now a partner at Covington & Burling ... Edelman's Aleena Hasnain ... Samantha Sher ... Andy McCarty ... Catherine (Simmy) Martin ... Kevin Bailey ... Kathleen Clegg ... Sean Redmond ... Lisa De Pasquale ... Megan Carpentier ... Dee Dee Sorvino ... Labinot

Maliqi ... Jen Overbye ... Alex Curd ... Bethany Aronhalt ... Marc Kimball ... Carolyn Casey ... John Cacciatore ... Catherine Chen ... Shokhan Washburn ... Kym Traczyk ... Sarah Godlewski, the pride of Eau Claire, Wis. (h/ts Teresa Vilmain)

****** **A message from Morgan Stanley:** How can technology help drive success? In the Morgan Stanley Innovation Lab, our in-house technology startup accelerator program, startup Landit seeks to use their tech platform to enable companies to further the success of women in the workplace. One of five startups participating in the program, Landit believes the partnership has the potential to accelerate their curve and expand their opportunities. "Only a small fraction of all venture capital money is given to multicultural and women entrepreneurs," explains Carla Harris, a Vice Chairwoman of Morgan Stanley and Head of its Multicultural Client Strategy Group. "Meanwhile, Morgan Stanley is a leader at the intersection of what these companies need: capital, connections, and investment banking content. We have the resources, access to relationships, and the expertise that can help refine these businesses and hopefully attract capital to scale up in size." Read more. ******

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Sent: Wed 6/28/2017 10:26:04 AM
Subject: Morning Media: Austin Tice captivity back in the spotlight — Times v. Palin — Playboy's W.H. correspondent: 'I don't like bullies'

By Joe Pompeo | 06/28/2017 06:23 AM EDT

With Cristiano Lima, Hadas Gold and Alex Weprin

TUNE IN THIS MORNING - Matt Lauer has a sit-down on "Today" with the parents of Austin Tice, the American journalist and former Marine who's been missing since he was taken captive in Syria nearly five years ago. Later on, Debra and Marc Tice will appear on "NBC Nightly News with Lester Holt" as well. The interviews come days after The New York Times revealed that in February, "national security officials began exploring ways to free Austin Tice," and that "White House officials ... set up a back channel" with Syria to this effect, only to see it quashed a few months later in the wake of American missile strikes.

TIPS AND COMMENTS: jpompeo@politico.com / @joepompeo. **Morning Media** is edited by **Alex Weprin** (@alexweprin / aweprin@politico.com) and produced with writing/reporting help from **Cristiano Lima**. (clima@politico.com / @ludacristiano). **Hadas Gold** contributed to today's newsletter. **Archives**. **Subscribe.**

NEW YORK TIMES READY TO RUMBLE WITH SARAH PALIN - A spokeswoman last night told me the company "had not yet seen" the defamation suit Palin filed against the Times yesterday, but that it "will defend against any claim vigorously." Palin's beef: "Mrs. Palin brings this action to hold The Times accountable for defaming her by publishing a statement about her that it knew to be false ... Specifically, on June 14, 2017, The Times Editorial Board ... falsely stated as a matter of fact to millions of people that Mrs. Palin incited Jared Loughner's January 8, 2011, shooting rampage at a political event in Tucson, Arizona." You can read the complaint here.

CNN STAFFERS DOWN IN THE DUMPS - BuzzFeed's Steven Perlberg reports : "The resignation of three CNN employees in the wake of the news outlet's retracted Russia story is making clear to the newsroom that reporters and editors have little margin for error in the Trump era. On Tuesday, CNN President Jeff Zucker sought to rally news staffers during the morning conference call, hours after President Trump tweeted about the resignations. According to a CNN source, Zucker told staffers to keep fighting the good fight, and that the impassioned response only demonstrated CNN's growing influence. Still, CNN sources described a glum environment in the wake of the resignations, as staffers watched conservative commentators like Fox News' Sean Hannity revel in CNN's pain."

Related from Paul Farhi in The Washington Post: "[T]he ... story was another ill-timed setback for CNN ... The heightened environment may ... explain why CNN went to such extraordinary lengths to address [the] story." More: "CNN's Russia story debacle came at the worst possible time for the network"

SOME COLOR ON CNN'S VETTING MALFUNCTION - "In CNN's newsroom, it is called the Triad: a three-pronged internal system designed to ensure that sensitive reporting by the network's journalists is unimpeachable before it runs," Michael Grynbaum reports in the Times . "The Triad system should have kicked into gear, with reviews by lawyers, a standards-and-practices division, and an editorial team known collectively as the Row, which checks facts and approves anonymous sources. (The system is so ingrained that CNN journalists often use the term as a verb: as in, has the story been 'rowed'?) But several network officials were caught off-guard when the story appeared online, the people said, signaling that it had not received the proper approvals."

MUST READS:

-- "The Gay Man Who Fled Chechnya's Purge" [The New Yorker]

-- "Why the Far Right Wants to Be the New 'Alternative' Culture" [NYT Mag]

-- "How Donald Trump and Roy Cohn's Ruthless Symbiosis Changed America" [Vanity Fair]

-- "The Last Shot" [ProPublica]

PERSONAL REFLECTION - From the Playboy correspondent whose skewering of the White House press shop yesterday went viral : "The fact is: I like Sarah Sanders. I like Sean Spicer. I like most of the people I've met who work in this administration. They're personable and, as far as I can tell - with a few notable exceptions - decent people. But I don't like bullies and I don't like the entire institution of the press and free speech being castigated for no other reason than we either get stories wrong - which happens, and it should be then responsibly corrected - or because we report news the president doesn't like - which seems to happen even more often than getting stories wrong." More: " We Stood Up to the Administration Today Because Free Press is Crucial"

MEDIA MYSTERY: TRUMP'S 2009 'TIME COVER' - "The framed copy of Time magazine was hung up in at least five of President Trump's clubs, from South Florida to Scotland. Filling the entire cover was a photo of Donald Trump," David Fahrenthold writes in The Washington Post. "This cover -- dated March 1, 2009 -- looks like an impressive memento from Trump's pre-presidential career. ... Even when he was just a reality TV star, Trump was the kind of star who got a cover story in Time. But that wasn't true. The Time cover is a fake."

SOUND BITES:

-- "There's a video circulating now -- whether it's accurate or not, I don't know -- but I would encourage everyone in this room and, frankly, everybody across the country to take a look at it." [Sarah Huckabee Sanders]

-- "Does this feel like America? Where the White House takes q's from conservatives, then openly trashes the news media in the briefing room." [Jim Acosta]

-- "To win, she'd have to prove the Times knew what it said was false or acted in reckless disregard of truth. High bar" [Brit Hume]

-- "It's vintage NBC to misdirect blame for its own behavior, and its own results." [a Fox News spokeswoman]

THE GENESIS OF MEGYN KELLY'S ALEX JONES INTERVIEW - "One person familiar with the matter explained that the Jones interview had been partly [NBC News chief Andy] Lack's idea in the first place. Lack had read a profile of him in The New York Times and submitted his name for consideration to Kelly and other executives." That and more in Sarah Ellison's latest for Vanity Fair: "CAN MEGYN KELLY OUTRUN HER NBC 'NIGHTMARE'? The broadcaster's first month at the network has been full of surprises, and not the kind anyone wants. Can she put it behind her?"

REVOLVING DOOR: MOTHER JONES' TRUMP BUMP = SEVEN NEW JOURNALISTS - The magazine says the hires were made possible by "record support" Mother Jones has seen in recent months, as hordes of news consumers have subscribed or donated to an array of publications following Trump's election. The most notable of the bunch is Ari Berman, a prominent voice on the voting rights beat who joins Mother Jones from The Nation. Additionally: Jamilah King joins from Mic to cover race and justice; former Daily News D.C. correspondent Dan Friedman joins to report on foreign influence and national security out of Washington; Amanda Silverman, formerly of The New Republic, is coming on board as senior news editor and Center for Investigative Reporting alum Julia Chan as audience director. The other two hires are filmmakers Al Kamalizad and Mark Helenowski, the inaugural participants in Mother Jones's new documentary film residency program.

SOUNDTRACK: New York Dolls, "Personality Crisis"

EXTRAS:

-- You can count News Corp. and Axel Springer among those who are psyched about Google's $2.7 billion antitrust fine from the European Commission. [THR]

-- How TMZ "quietly became America's most potent pro-Trump media outlet." [Think Progress]

-- A Sinclair Broadcasting Group's executive donated to Greg Gianforte's campaign -- a day after Gianforte was charged with body-slamming a reporter for The Guardian. [POLITICO]

-- The Washington Post's new social media policy appears to make criticizing advertisers a fireable offense. [Washingtonian]

To view online:
http://www.politico.com/media/tipsheets/morning-media/2017/06/28/austin-tice-captivity-back-in-the-spotlight-times-v-palin-playboys-wh-correspondent-i-dont-like-bullies-001300

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Subject: POLITICO's Morning Transportation, presented by Delta Air Lines: Trump touts waterways, rural infrastructure — Start your engines on an FAA bill — Groups go to the mat on Open Skies

By Lauren Gardner and Tanya Snyder | 06/07/2017 10:00 AM EDT

With help from Stephanie Beasley, Brianna Gurciullo and Annie Snider

SPLISH SPLASH: President Donald Trump heads to the banks of the Ohio River today to give another speech on infrastructure, this time with a focus on rural infrastructure that includes the thousands of miles of waterways industries like coal and agriculture use to move their products (not to put too fine a point on it, Trump will speak with a coal barge floating behind him). We're also hearing he may touch on a tax code overhaul, a topic that likely came up during the president's huddle with GOP congressional leaders Tuesday.

Is there a P3 party going on? Infrastructure fans want to know just how much Trump plans to talk about private financing on this visit, given rural interests' general unease with P3s. National Economic Council Director Gary Cohn said the administration would ensure rural America gets its "more than fair share" of infrastructure funding, and White House officials said spending in rural areas would continue much as it has in the past (i.e. coming from the federal piggy bank). To that point, Trump will outline four categories of federal infrastructure funding in his speech, Bloomberg reported last night - a mix of grants and loans to "transformative" efforts; grants tailored to rural areas for road, bridge and waterway repairs; "enhanced loan programs," with TIFIA held out as an example; and "incentive programs with grants to states and municipalities to create additional funding for infrastructure."

Private practice: Despite Trump's nod to the federal side of his infrastructure equation, his overarching theme of enticing greater private infrastructure investment will be a hard sell to the barge operators in the audience who have for decades been beating back White House proposals to charge tolls or user fees, which industry says would violate the deal they made with Congress when they raised their gas tax in 2014, and wouldn't work anyway. But taxpayer advocates say the barge industry enjoys a massive subsidy since the federal government bears the entire hefty cost of maintenance for the system, and the Trump administration joined every administration since Clinton's in proposing a user fee in its 2018 budget blueprint.

IT'S EARWORM WEDNESDAY: Thanks for tuning in to POLITICO's Morning Transportation, your daily tipsheet on all things trains, planes, automobiles and ports. Enjoy your musical Easter eggs/midweek pick-me-up, loyal readers! Send us tips, feedback and lyrics to tsnyder@politico.com or @TSnyderDC and lgardner@politico.com or @Gardner_LM.

"I'm looking out from my window seat/Halfway back, aisle 23/Man I wish that I could fly this thing/Give a little more gas, a little more speed ... " (h/t Savannah Haeger of Hamilton Place Strategies)

Want to keep up with MT's song picks? Follow our Spotify playlist.

START YOUR (PLANE) ENGINES: The first of this week's congressional hearings on the looming need for an FAA reauthorization takes place at Senate Commerce today, and Transportation Secretary Elaine Chao will surely field lots of questions from senators that range from lukewarm to ice cold on the prospect of splitting air traffic control operations away from the FAA and into a nonprofit corporation. Commerce Chairman John Thune will reiterate that plenty of independent parties have studied "the flaws with the current structure," but that he looks forward to a discussion "on the merits of the reform proposals, as well as ways the administration will seek to address concerns of key stakeholders, especially those with a rural perspective."

YOU'RE NEVER GONNA GET IT: Trump's entrance into the air traffic control debate doesn't seem to have changed the dynamics on Capitol Hill. Senate Commerce Aviation Subcommittee Chairman Roy Blunt said he'd "look at" Trump's proposal but stayed far away from an endorsement. Sen. Jerry Moran (R-Kan.) said that although "privatization, on first blush, to many Republicans seems like a positive thing," he remains opposed to the idea - and thinks that more Republicans will too as they learn details about the plan. And former EPW Chairman Jim Inhofe said he wants the air traffic control proposal out of the FAA bill, given the Sept. 30 deadline. "We've attempted to take things that are controversial out of the FAA reauthorization," he said. Inhofe twice refused to tell MT exactly what changes he's asking for in Trump's plan, but when MT said she would guess it had "something to do with rural areas and general aviation," Inhofe said: "You're right."

THE TAXMAN: House Ways and Means Chairman Kevin Brady said Trump's proposal "deserves serious consideration" because the current system isn't yielding results fast enough on infrastructure improvements. "Our role on Ways and Means will be considering in this proposal whether we transfer tax authority in return for user fees to this new organization," he said. "So we're going to be looking carefully at that area." Since Rep. Bill Shuster 's ATC plan never made it to the floor last year, Brady never was forced to take a position, but he always appeared skeptical of the idea of taking tax-setting power away from Congress and giving it to a new private entity.

Wyden awake: Top Democratic Senate tax writer Ron Wyden (D-Ore.) said he's "seeing a tidal wave of opposition to selling off assets, privatizing the air traffic system." At a time when "people are angry about baggage charges and no legroom and the like, this just looks like a gift to the private interests and the airlines," he said, adding that it looks like a textbook example of "what powerful people do" without regard for how it affects "the typical people, the working family, the senior citizen."

Meanwhile, back at the House: Shuster told reporters late Tuesday that the Transportation Committee will "possibly" mark up an FAA reauthorization bill "later in the month." When asked if he was weighing any changes to his 2016 effort given the White House's new principles on an air traffic control overhaul, all he'd say is he would "take a look at all of it. Like I said, we just got the announcement yesterday, so we're sifting through it."

CALL ME, MAYBE? Sen. Tom Carper (D-Del.), the ranking member on the Environment and

Public Works Committee who just wants someone from the Trump administration to call him about infrastructure, said Tuesday that he and Chairman John Barrasso (R-Wyo.) are still talking about their own principles to guide their legislative effort. "For me, one of the principles is that things that are worth having are worth paying for. We have charged entirely too much on the nation's credit card," he said, adding that given Barrasso's conservative bona fides, "hopefully he believes in paying for things, too."

PENCE IN THE HOUSE: In the Senate, actually - Vice President Mike Pence joined Republicans for their weekly luncheon Tuesday, but word is they didn't talk about infrastructure at all. Even during "Infrastructure Week" at the White House, it was all health care all the time.

Transpo groups in the White House: On the sidelines of Trump's meeting with GOP congressional leadership Tuesday, Cohn and Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin held a separate listening session on taxes with representatives from a slew of transportation groups and companies, including Airlines for America, the Association of American Railroads, American Trucking Associations, FedEx and UPS.

TRUMP NOT MOVING HIS NOMINEES, UNTIL HE DOES: "Trump is lashing out at Democrats for allegedly stalling his appointments and agenda, but it's his own administration that is frequently sitting on the necessary paperwork for nominees," POLITICO's Seung Min Kim reported Tuesday morning. Trump appears to have gotten the message - he sent 17 nominations to the Senate on Tuesday afternoon, including Steven Bradbury for DOT general counsel and David Pekoske for assistant secretary of Homeland Security at TSA.

** **A message from Delta Air Lines:** Our daily briefing: At Delta we're constantly innovating to make your travel smoother. We tapped RFID technology to keep your bags in check at all times. Giving you more peace of mind from check-in to baggage claim. Learn more: delta.com/dca **

GLOVES OFF: The Air Line Pilots Association threw some elbows Tuesday at the U.S. Travel Association, accusing the group of "essentially lobbying on behalf of the [United Arab Emirates] without having filed appropriate disclosures, and ... asking the Justice Department to probe the matter," our Brianna Gurciullo writes for Pros. Emirates and Etihad - long accused by detractors of taking enormous subsidies from the UAE government - are both members of the travel group, which has promoted the Gulf carriers' position in Open Skies-related kerfuffles. That, according to ALPA, means U.S. Travel should register as a foreign lobbying agent.

Call and response: U.S. Travel's Jonathan Grella said the organization has "been active in support of Open Skies since February 2015 - years before any carriers joined as members," and that those airlines' membership fees amount to a pittance of the $33 million the group pulls in each year.

KELLY ROLLS WITH THE PUNCHES: Homeland Security Secretary John Kelly told Democrats Tuesday he supports Trump's fiscal 2018 budget request to move resources to the southern border to target the "overwhelming" number of illegal migrants and drugs coming through the southern border - even at the expense of some counterterrorism programs. Democrats have opposed Trump's proposal to reduce the number of VIPR teams and eliminate grants to help

airports hire local officers. Kelly said states and municipalities have the resources to handle terrorism-related emergencies as the agency turns its attention to newer security threats. Our Stephanie Beasley has more for Pros.

LET IT GO, LET IT GO: At the same hearing, Sen. Rand Paul (R-Ky.) told Kelly he wants DHS agents to stop searching people's phones without a warrant, and without publishing any rules for the process. Kelly previously told Paul he was unaware of border agents demanding to search U.S. travelers' phones upon re-entry to the country, but acknowledged Tuesday that agents had confiscated and searched the phones of both U.S. citizens and noncitizens, albeit not routinely. That did little to pacify Paul, who said it shouldn't happen at all since the agency has no clear authority to search electronic devices.

MT MAILBAG: Del. Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-D.C.) has asked House Transportation Committee leaders Shuster and Peter DeFazio (D-Ore.) to hold a hearing on the potential dangers of transporting lithium batteries by air and U.S. efforts to ban electronics larger than cellphones in carry-on bags on commercial airplanes. "Experts have pointed out that fires caused by lithium batteries are more easily detected within the cabin of an aircraft as opposed to within the cargo hold," Norton wrote.

And National Association of Manufacturers President Jay Timmons is out with a letter today to members (and copied to Trump) imploring them to address "long-term challenges" in any infrastructure bill related to "persistent transportation funding uncertainty and regulatory improvements." "This is an ideal opportunity to refresh outdated revenue sources and regulations as well as developing a more reliable, user-based funding stream to keep building roads, bridges, transit systems and highways far into the future," he writes.

THE AUTOBAHN:

- "Elaine Chao: One woman's rise from immigrant roots to the presidential Cabinet." CNN.

- "Feds fight demand for Trump campaign draft of travel ban." POLITICO Pro.

- "Uber fires more than 20 as part of internal investigation." POLITICO Pro.

- "Volkswagen's Electric Effort Charges Up Detractors." The Wall Street Journal.

- "An airline tried to get a musician to check her 17th-century violin. A 'wrestling match' ensued." The Washington Post.

- "Playing Catch-Up to Uber on Self-Driving, Lyft Teams Up With Partners." The New York Times.

THE COUNTDOWN: DOT appropriations run out in 116 days. The FAA reauthorization expires in 116 days. Highway and transit policy is up for renewal in 1,212 days.

**** A message from Delta Air Lines:** Our daily briefing: At Delta we're constantly innovating to

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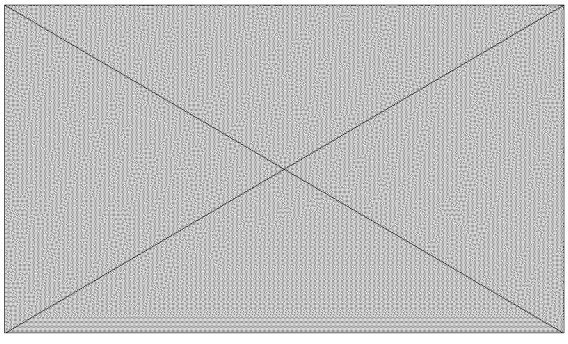
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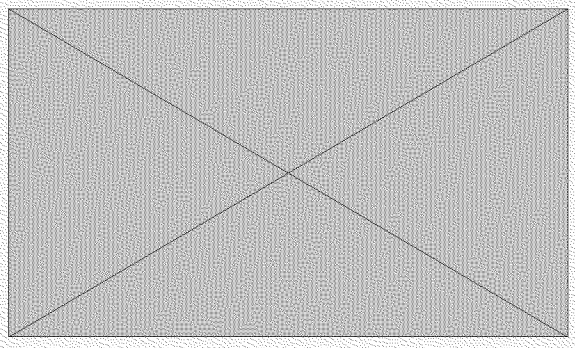


Twenty20

A spotlight on human dignity

Arthur C. Brooks | AEIdeas

Americans pride ourselves on the connection between hard work and success. It's central to our national story that those who put in the hours and take risks have opportunities to build meaningful lives. But for many, the bottom rungs of the ladder are increasingly hard to reach. The percentage of working-age men outside the labor force has more than tripled since 1965. The most important consequences of this situation aren't economic ones.

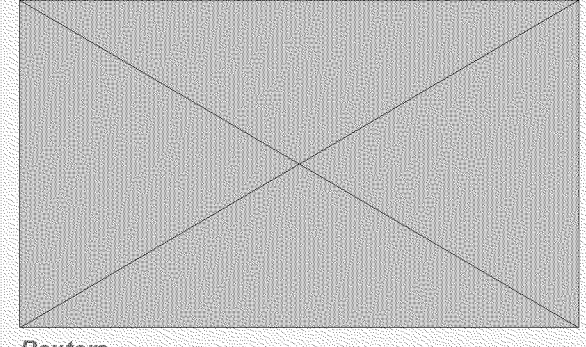


Reuters

Tech companies must regain trust

Dalibor Rohac | US News & World Report

What do former White House Chief Strategist Steve Bannon, Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-MA), and the European Commission have in common? All of them are, for different reasons, keen to tighten the regulation of technological giants such as Google and Facebook. There is some truth to each of their concerns. But before committing to a specific regulatory path, policymakers in the United States and Europe should think twice.



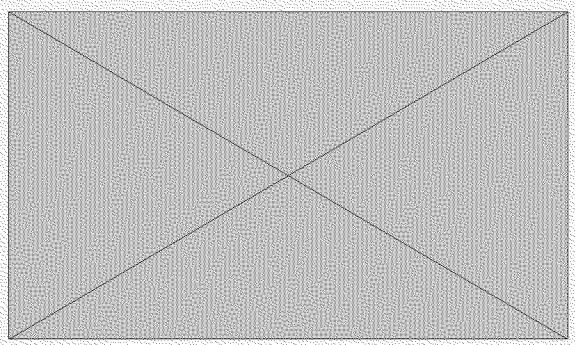
Reuters

America's embassy

should be moved to Jerusalem — now

John R. Bolton | FoxNews.com

Whether to move America's embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem has long been a subject of political debate in the United States and abroad. It's time now to resolve the debate by recognizing Jerusalem as Israel's capital city and relocating our embassy there on incontestably Israeli sovereign territory.



Twenty20

To help working families, don't cut their taxes

Michael R. Strain | Bloomberg View

The House Republicans' tax proposal focuses primarily on driving up business investment. Many critics think it should lean more heavily on providing immediate tax relief to American families. It shouldn't. Individual income tax cuts wouldn't do nearly as much as wage increases from stronger business investment would.

MORE FROM AEI

Beyond North Korea: President Trump needs to focus on the South China Sea and terrorism
Michael Mazza | The National Interest

We have to get rid of the term 'accountability' in education. It's toxic.
Gerard Robinson | The 74

More evidence that the anti–climate change movement is often not really about climate change
Peter J. Wallison | AEIdeas

Watch: A strategy for a brighter future in Libya
Emily Estelle, Frederick W. Kagan, and Katherine Zimmerman | AEI event video

Another way to reduce the burden on American taxpayers? Reform our crop insurance program
Joseph W. Glauber | The Hill

On encryption and tech firms, a note of caution for the White House
Claude Barfield | AEIdeas

The right wants to make guns a culture-war battle. The left wants to pretend that it isn't.
Jonah Goldberg | National Review Online

Report: Japan can be a key partner in championing liberal values
Michael Auslin | AEI

The Trump administration is welcoming Turkey's prime minister when it should give him the cold shoulder
Michael Rubin | Washington Examiner

Testimony: The implications of moving the US embassy to Jerusalem
John R. Bolton | Testimony before the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform

In brief: The failure of the Libyan state is a threat to American security — and it will get worse
Emily Estelle | AEI

Is the Golden Age of startups over?
James Pethokoukis | AEIdeas

Watch live today: Japanese internationalism in an era of upheaval
Michael Auslin | AEI event today at 2:00 PM ET

Around the web: Libertarian skepticism of democracy has infected the American right
Matt Winesett | AEIdeas

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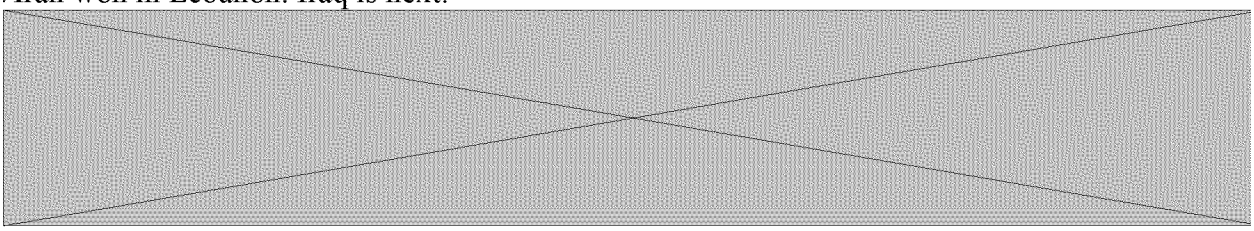
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Reuters

Iran won in Lebanon. Iraq is next.

Danielle Pletka | The Wall Street Journal

In the violent Middle East, Lebanon looks like a miracle. As a mix of Christians and Sunni and Shiite Muslims has fought a brutal civil war and weathered aggressive outside interference, Lebanon still putters along as a semifunctioning democracy. To strengthen the Lebanese Armed Forces, the US has given more than $1 billion over the past decade. But looks are deceiving. In Lebanon, despite America's help, Iran has won.

Reuters

With a Trump test, institutions respond

Jonah Goldberg | National Review Online

The standard brief against the president, from not only the left but also much of the desiccated center, is that Donald Trump is a threat to the constitutional order. Conservatives should not

dismiss this view out of hand, and if the president were much more popular, they should worry more. But to date, things aren't working that way. As of right now, the system isn't breaking down: It's finally starting to work as intended.

AEI

Republicans are right: Medicaid needs more than a Band-Aid

James C. Capretta | National Review

Democrats are predictably pouncing on the Medicaid provisions of the new Senate health care bill, saying Republican "cuts" to the program would decimate the nation's health-insurance safety net. These attacks are overblown. The Medicaid provisions of the bill are not perfect, but they point in the right direction. Most important, Republicans are right to move away from today's open-ended federal spending on Medicaid.

Reuters

The lesson from Seattle's 'fight for 15': Proceed with caution

Mark J. Perry | AEIdeas

If booming, high-cost-of-living Seattle had a hard time absorbing a $13 an hour minimum wage last year without experiencing negative employment effects — reduced hours, jobs, and earnings for low-wage workers — it will have an even more difficult time dealing with the additional $2 an hour increase that took place in

January. Seattle's experiment may represent a "canary in the coal mine" for the rest of America.

More from AEI

Which state has the most overpriced college tuition?

Preston Cooper | Forbes

In renegotiating NAFTA, President Trump should look to the Trans-Pacific Partnership

Claude Barfield | USKI Washington Review

Watch: Henry Olsen saw Trump's rise early. Now he explains the return of blue-collar Reagan conservatism.

Karlyn Bowman and Jonah Goldberg | AEI event video

After years of debt-fueled growth, the emperor has no clothes

Desmond Lachman | AEIdeas

Report: Digital mismeasurement is hurting productivity and GDP

Stephen D. Oliner, David M. Byrne, and Daniel E. Sichel | AEI Economics Working Paper

It's been 150 days since the administration first issued the travel ban. So where is the 'extreme vetting'?

Marc A. Thiessen | AEIdeas

Last chance to RSVP: The road to sensible regulation of e-cigarettes

Sally Satel and Stan Veuger | AEI event tomorrow at 10:30 AM ET

How to reform low-income housing policy to reduce child poverty

Ed Olsen | Committee on Building an Agenda to Reduce the Number of Children in Poverty by Half in 10 Years

AEI in the news: As Republicans reject conservatism, the ideas keep

flowing

David Brooks | The New York Times [metered paywall]

Last chance to RSVP: Does government money help drive medical innovation?

Thomas Peter Stossel | AEI event tomorrow at 4:00 PM ET

Around the web: How people like you fuel extremism

Matt Winesett | AEIdeas

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By Anthony Adragna | 06/07/2017 10:00 AM EDT

With help from Eric Wolff, Annie Snider and Alex Guillén

TRUMP INFRASTRUCTURE TRAIN ROLLS ON: Both EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt and Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke are expected to be on hand today as President Donald Trump heads down to the banks of the Ohio River. With an Ingram coal barge as a backdrop, Trump is expected to tout the role that inland waterways play in America's agricultural and energy exports. Infrastructure advocates often point out that it's the U.S.'s ability to get goods to market cheaply that allow us to beat out competitors. Zinke is expected to speak about energy dominance during the event as well.

Literally just tossing this out: Because why not, Trump floated the idea of installing solar panels on his proposed Mexican border wall to cover the billions in construction costs during a meeting with congressional leaders Tuesday, POLITICO's Josh Dawsey and Rachael Bade report . It's... not exactly clear just how this would work. ME did some digging, and using 28-inch wide solar panels available at Home Depot (Buy American!), you'd need 4,364,434 panels to run the entire 1,989 miles of the proposed border wall. What's more, you'd create the biggest solar array in the world at 1.25 gigawatts of total capacity (the largest currently is 850 megawatts)! That's before we even get to the issue of how Trump would install the transmission needed to carry all the power and where it would go! One company, Gleason Partners LLC of Las Vegas, actually proposed a similar idea back April, according to the Las Vegas Journal-Review.

OZONE DECISIONS PUSHED: Pruitt announced late Tuesday he would delay deciding which areas of the U.S. do not meet the 2015 ozone standard, saying he needs another year to "consider completely" the states' suggestions "and to rely fully on the most recent air quality data," Pro's Alex Guillén reports. In letters to governors, Pruitt said "there is insufficient information" to act at this time.

In response, Sen. Shelley Moore Capito hailed Pruitt's decision: "State and local governments and employers across the country have had insufficient time to comply with the latest revisions to the ozone standards," she said. But environmental advocates hinted at litigation over the move. "The delay is flagrantly illegal as well as a direct assault on our right to breathe safe, clean air," John Walke, director of NRDC's clean air program, said in a statement.

WELCOME TO WEDNESDAY! I'm your host Anthony Adragna, and Kansas, Mississippi and Tennessee are the three states that are entirely dry by default. (Individual counties can specifically authorize the sale of alcohol.) For today: How many members of the Senate lack a four-year degree? Send your tips, energy gossip and comments to aadragna@politico.com, or follow us on Twitter: @AnthonyAdragna, @Morning_Energy, and @POLITICOPro.

CLARK PICK FOR TOP DOJ ENVIRONMENTAL JOB: Trump has selected veteran Washington attorney Jeffrey Bossert Clark to run DOJ's Environment and Natural Resources Division, Pro's Alex Guillén reports. Clark is involved in the lawsuits challenging EPA's Clean Power Plan and will likely have to recuse himself from that ongoing litigation, if confirmed. He's been a partner at Kirkland & Ellis since 1996, except between 2001 to 2005, when he was the deputy assistant attorney for ENRD.

Blast from the past: Clark has been involved in some other key litigation in recent years. He represented the Alliance of Automobile Manufacturers and National Automobile Dealers Association in lawsuits challenging EPA's 2009 decision to reject a waiver to set more stringent vehicle emissions standards than the federal level. The Obama administration later reversed course and granted that waiver to California, but the Trump administration now is weighing whether to revoke it, a contentious issue. Clark also represented the U.S. Chamber of Commerce in challenges to EPA's greenhouse gas endangerment finding and several early climate rules. And he represented ethanol group Growth Energy in successfully fending off oil industry challenges to an early EPA Renewable Fuel Standard rule.

Also: If you were thinking about protesting his confirmation hearing, Clark is on record as not being a huge fan of protesters who step over the line. In a 1986 piece in the Harvard Crimson, where according to his LinkedIn profile he was editorial page editor, Clark argued that the school "justly" prosecuted political protesters because they "obstructed freedom of movement and violated trespassing laws."

AUDACITY OF (CONTINUED) HOPE: Former President Barack Obama remains optimistic about the chances of tackling climate change despite what he called a "temporary lack of U.S. leadership" on that issue, POLITICO's Jake Lahut reports. "In Paris, we came around to the most ambitious agreement in history to combat climate change, an agreement that even with a temporary lack of U.S. leadership will still give our kids a fighting chance against climate change," Obama said in remarks to Montreal's Chamber of Commerce.

THAT WAS FAST: Mere hours after the Senate EPW Committee scrapped their confirmation hearings due to a lack of paperwork, the White House formally sent nominations for three NRC picks over to Congress, Pro's Darius Dixon reports. The panel now plans to hold a hearing on the nominations of Annie Caputo and David Wright, and the reappointment of Chairwoman Kristine Svinicki, on June 13 at 10 a.m.

REGULATORY CZAR PICK IN THE HOT SEAT: The Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee today hears from Trump's pick to serve as the nation's regulatory gatekeeper, law professor Neomi Rao. The George Mason University's Antonin Scalia Law School professor has previously argued judicial deference has created a "significant expansion" of executive branch authority at the cost of Congress's power and urged lawmakers to pass more specific laws. Trump tapped her to run OMB's Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs in April.

In response, Public Citizen President Robert Weissman said: "It is clear that Trump appointed her to defang regulatory agencies, gut regulatory protections and give corporations a free hand to

pollute and pilfer, poison and profiteer."

MOVE ALONG: Lawmakers on the House Energy and Commerce Committee are expected today to advance 11 energy-related bills, including those addressing energy efficiency and infrastructure permitting. Most of them are fairly minor, and arguably the most consequential is a bill (H.R. 1109) that would amend the Federal Power Act to set $10 million as the minimum threshold for mergers and acquisitions subject to FERC jurisdiction. A full list of bills up for consideration at the markup, which kicks off at 10 a.m. in Rayburn 2123, is available here.

ME FIRST - RFA SAYS RFS HAS WORKED OUT GREAT! The Renewable Fuels Association is out with a report today providing data that the Renewable Fuel Standard is working out just fine, thank you. It shows that gas prices and dependence on foreign oil imports are down since the RFS was signed in 2005, while ethanol jobs grew 121 percent over the same period. The report comes as the E15 debate heats up, with EPW Chairman John Barrasso planning to schedule a hearing and markup on a bill that would allow year-round sales of the E15, a major goal of ethanol producers.

Flag Day for E15?: Mike Lorenz, executive vice president for gasoline retailer Sheetz, said he plans to testify before EPW on Deb Fischer's E15 bill on June 14 at 10 a.m. The committee wouldn't confirm that date, but we'll assume it's set. Lorenz, who lives in Pittsburgh, said he plans to be in town next Tuesday to prepare for the hearing the following day. Sheetz is the largest retailer of 15 percent ethanol fuel in the country. The hearing and eventual markup is part of an agreement between Barrasso and Fischer to win support from corn-state senators for a vote against an Obama-era methane regulation. The bill, which would allow year-round sales of E15, has been long-sought by of ethanol producers.

NEW PUSH AGAINST ROVER PIPELINE: Oil Change International released a new analysis today finding the Rover pipeline (and the natural gas it would transport) would produce as much greenhouse gas pollution as 42 coal-fired power plants - some 145 million metric tons per year - if completed. The $4.2 billion high-pressure natural gas pipeline that would transport natural gas through Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Ohio and Michigan.

Meanwhile, indigenous and green groups are urging 28 major banks not to fund the Trans Mountain pipeline expansion project. In a letter Tuesday, they say the "expansion project is no minor expansion of an existing pipeline; it is a proposal for a new pipeline that would triple Trans Mountain's capacity ... We urge you to avoid the reputational and financial risk of supporting this destructive project."

WHY THE DELAY? Top House Natural Resources Democrat Raul Grijlava wants to know why Interior postponed a scheduled meeting of the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative, which requires governments to disclose payments they receive for extracting minerals, gas and oil, to an undetermined date later this year. Grijalva asked Zinke in a letter to clarify the administration's position on the group by June 30 and commit to holding a meeting no later than the end of August.

PRUITT FEARS 'QUESTIONABLE' CLIMATE MODELS: Speaking Tuesday on Fox

Business, Pruitt acknowledged human activity contributed to climate change but questioned the validity of modeling on the impacts of the problem. "The modeling that has been used over the last several years has absolutely been questionable," he alleged. "What we do know is human activity contributes to warming, what we do know is it's very difficult to measure with precision the amount of human activity contributing to the warming."

MAIL CALL! NOT SO FAST, MR. SECRETARY: The American Public Power Association and the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association sent a letter to Energy Secretary Rick Perry expressing concern over the administration's proposal to sell off transmission assets of three federal power marketing administrations. "There is no factual evidence that selling the transmission assets of the PMAs would result in a more efficient allocation of resources," the groups wrote. "Rather, it is much more likely that any sale of these assets to private entities would result in attempts by the new owners to charge substantially increased transmission rates to the PMA customers for the same service they have historically received."

NEW PUSH FOR REGULATORY OVERHAUL: Sixteen Republican attorneys general, led by Texas' Ken Paxton, released a letter to Trump Tuesday urging Congress to pass a law saying that no federal agency regulations, interpretations, guidance documents, bulletins, circulars or any other administrative statement are enforceable in federal courts. Instead, those entities would send their actions to Congress for review. "In this way, the lawmaking power would return to where it belongs - Congress - and the judiciary would reemerge as an independent adjudicator of lawsuits between the federal government and the people," they wrote.

MAINE CAN MANAGE ITS OWN PARK: Rep. Bruce Poliquin sent a letter to Zinke arguing Maine could best manage the Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument while vowing to continue efforts to revamp the president's authority to use the Antiquities Act to designate national monuments. "Whatever your final recommendation, I ask you to convey to the President my continued strong opposition to this unchecked executive power and my request that he supports my long-term solution for local control of monument designations," Poliquin wrote. He notably stopped short of calling for full repeal of the national monument.

Separately, 260 former and current employees of the National Park Service are sending a letter to Zinke today expressing opposition to Trump's order calling for the review of the designation of more than two dozen national monuments under the Antiquities Act.

REPORT: ENERGY DEVELOPMENT ENDANGERS NATIONAL PARKS: The National Parks Conservation Association is out with a report warning of negative consequences from improperly sited oil and gas leases at seven national parks.

REPORT: DIVESTMENT WOULD COST PENSIONS BIG: Divesting from fossil fuels would cost 11 of the biggest public pension funds $4.9 trillion over 50 years due to reduced portfolio diversification, according to a report released today through the Independent Petroleum Association of America's Divestment Facts program.

VITTER LANDS A SIDE HUSTLE: Former Sen. David Vitter has a new gig. The Louisiana Republican, who joined Mercury in February after retiring from the Senate, has joined the New

Orleans office of the law firm Butler Snow as of counsel. The news was first reported by the Associated Press. He will continue to work full-time as a lobbyist in Washington for Mercury, where his clients include Morris & Dickson, Cabot Corporation, the Atlantic Development Group, the American Chemistry Council, Morganza Action Coalition and the Air-Conditioning, Heating and Refrigeration Institute, according to disclosure records. "This doesn't change his role or work at Mercury," a Mercury spokeswoman wrote in an email. (h/t POLITICO Influence)

SIERRA CLUB FURTHER BACKS OSSOFF: Ahead of the June 20 runoff election, the Sierra Club is launching a new campaign targeting some 41,000 voters with two pieces of mail backing Democrat Jon Ossoff, who faces Karen Handel in the race for HHS Secretary Tom Price's old seat in Georgia.

WORKING ON YOUR FITNESS? Rep. Jared Huffman is teaming up with three Olympians in holding a public lands-themed interval workout on the Capitol Grounds this morning at 8 a.m. across from the Reflecting Pool.

QUICK HITS

- How climate change helped Lyme disease invade America. Vox.

- Oil is flowing in the Dakota Access Pipeline, but Iowa opponents still think they can shut it down. Des Moines Register.

- More NC homeowners could have rooftop solar panels with leasing deals. The News & Observer.

- Saudi Dispute With Qatar Has 22-Year History Rooted in Gas. Bloomberg.

- U.S. senators press EPA for documents on Icahn's biofuel dealings. Reuters.

- Workers in North Carolina were lifted by solar's rise. Now they're worried about Trump. Washington Post.

- Donald J. Vidrine, Supervisor on Ill-Fated Deepwater Horizon Rig, Dies at 69. New York Times.

THAT'S ALL FOR ME!

To view online:
http://www.politico.com/tipsheets/morning-energy/2017/06/07/pruitt-zinke-join-trump-in-ohio-today-220705

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From: Anna Palmer Jake Sherman Daniel Lippman
Sent: Mon 6/19/2017 5:07:43 PM
Subject: Playbook Power Briefing, presented by Starbucks: SCOTUS strikes down practice of refusing offensive patents -- Spending tops 50 million in GA-06 as TRUMP promotes HANDEL -- DEMS to halt Senate business over health care bill -- SAM STEIN to Daily Beast

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Today's Playbook Power Briefing presented by Starbucks

By ANNA PALMER (anna@politico.com; @apalmerdc), JAKE SHERMAN (sherman@politico.com; @JakeSherman), DANIEL LIPPMAN (daniel@politico.com; @dlippman), ZACH MONTELLARO (zmontellaro@politico.com; @ZachMontellaro)

Good Monday afternoon. THE PRESIDENT is hosting Panamanian President Juan Carlos Varela. Here's an exchange, per the pooler George Condon of National Journal: "'We have many things to discuss. We're going to spend quite a bit of time today,' said the president. 'The Panama Canal is doing quite well.' Then, looking toward his visitor who was seated in the chair to his right, the president added, 'I think we did a good job building it, right?' President Varela responded, 'Very good job.'"

BIG NEWS FROM THE SUPREME COURT -- "Supreme Court rules the government can't refuse to register trademarks considered offensive," by Josh Gerstein: "The Supreme Court has declared unconstitutional the federal government's practice of refusing to register trademarks that officials deem to be offensive on racial, religious or similar grounds.The justices ruled, 8-0, in favor of Simon Tam, the front man for an all-Asian-American rock band known as 'The Slants.' The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office had refused to register the band's name, citing a law that denied trademarks that disparage individuals, institutions, beliefs or national symbols. ... The eight justices who considered the case held unanimously that the clause banning registration of disparaging trademarks violates the First Amendment." http://politi.co/2sKKNtE ... ***A great Planet Money episode on the band*** http://n.pr/2tjVZdD ... ***The band's song protesting the trademark office*** http://bit.ly/2tk5TvQ

-- THE LOCAL ANGLE: This decision will thrill the owner of a certain Washington football team. Dan Snyder, the owner of the Washington Redskins, has been battling the trademark office for years, and some of the team's trademarks were cancelled in 2014. The team filed a friend of the court brief supporting the band when the case was heard. http://bit.ly/2sKOO0S

-- @NoraPrinciotti: "#Redskins owner Dan Snyder says 'I am THRILLED! Hail to the Redskins.' in response to #SCOTUS ruling."

ON THE DOCKET -- "Supreme Court to hear partisan gerrymandering case," by Josh Gerstein: "The Supreme Court has agreed to hear a case from Wisconsin that

could clarify whether redistricting plans can be unconstitutional because they're too partisan. Last November, a three-judge panel ruled, 2-1, that the Republican-drawn maps for Wisconsin's state assembly were impermissibly biased against Democrats. The high court also signaled Monday that it may well split along partisan lines. The justices voted, 5-4, to stay a requirement that the state file a new redistricting plan by Nov. 1. All the Democratic appointees dissented." http://politi.co/2sKS6S3

-- "Supreme Court throws out bulk of suit by post-9/11 detainees," by Josh http://politi.co/2sL1wwG

THE COOLING SAUCER -- "Democrats to halt Senate business over Obamacare repeal," by Jennifer Haberkorn: "Beginning Monday night, Democrats will start objecting to all unanimous consent requests in the Senate, according to a Democratic aide. They plan to control the floor of the chamber Monday night and try to force the House-passed health care bill to committee in a bid to further delay it. Without the votes to block Obamacare repeal, Democrats are turning to procedural moves they believe will underscore their most powerful argument: Republicans are hiding their repeal plan from the public and using Senate procedures to keep it a secret. ...

"Holding the floor on Monday evening won't change the timing of a health care vote. And Democrats are unlikely to be able to force the House bill to committee or delay it. But it will force Republicans to answer for what Democrats say is a rushed process and bad policy. Democrats also plan to make a series of parliamentary inquiries to highlight the difference between the passage of the Affordable Care Act and the GOP bill. ... Democrats may still allow some honorary, bipartisan resolutions." http://politi.co/2tkhF9v

****** **A message from Starbucks:** Intuitive leadership, teamwork and a dedication to service -just a few of the valuable qualities veterans possess that inspired Starbuck to hire 10,000 veterans and military spouses by 2018. We reached our initial goal 18 months early and have proudly increased our commitment to 25,000 hires by 2025 http://sbux.co/2stiS17 ******

IN SYRIA -- "Russia warns US after downing of Syrian jet," by the AP: "Russia's defense ministry says it will treat U.S.-led coalition planes in Syria, west of the Euphrates River, as targets after the U.S. military shot down a Syrian Air Force jet on Sunday. Moscow has condemned the U.S. downing of the Syrian government fighter jet after it dropped bombs nears U.S. partner forces." http://apne.ws/2sK7fTq

TRUMP WADES INTO GEORGIA -- @realDonaldTrump at 8:27 a.m.: "The Dems want to stop tax cuts, good healthcare and Border Security.Their ObamaCare is dead with 100% increases in P's. Vote now for Karen H"

-- REPUBLICANS are really all in here. Speaker Paul Ryan has gone, McCarthy stopped by and outside groups and the NRCC are in big. ... **@LA_Hagen:** "House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy stopped by Karen Handel's first event of the day #GA06" http://bit.ly/2sK3DB2

NEW THRESHOLD -- "Spending in Georgia Sixth race pushes past $50 million," by the Atlanta Journal-Constitution's Greg Bluestein: "The race for Georgia's 6th District was already the most expensive election of its kind. Now the contest to represent a suburban Atlanta district has shattered another barrier, topping $50 million in overall spending. An election-eve analysis by The Atlanta Journal-Constitution shows that roughly $42 million has been spent or reserved for TV and radio ads in the race ... That doesn't include the other cash spent by the campaigns and the super PACs and outside groups supporting them for other trappings of the campaigns, including direct-mail, staff payroll, consulting fees and digital ads." http://on-ajc.com/2tkbGRV

FOR SCALISE -- CHIEF DEPUTY WHIP PATRICK MCHENRY (R-N.C.) has organized two blood drives on the Hill this week in honor of House Majority Whip Steve Scalise (R-La.) and the other victims of last week's shootings. The blood drive tomorrow will be at the Rayburn Foyer from 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. and is supported by INOVA Blood Donor Services and the blood drive on Thursday, which is supported by the American Red Cross, will be at the Rayburn Foyer and Rayburn 2050 from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

OOPS -- "GOP Data Firm Accidentally Leaks Personal Details of Nearly 200 Million American Voters," by Gizmodo's Dell Cameron and Kate Conger: "Political data gathered on more than 198 million US citizens was exposed this month after a marketing firm contracted by the [RNC] stored internal documents on a publicly accessible Amazon server. The data leak contains a wealth of personal information on roughly 61 percent of the US population. Along with home addresses, birthdates, and phone numbers, the records include advanced sentiment analyses used by political groups to predict where individual voters fall on hot-button issues such as gun ownership, stem cell research, and the right to abortion, as well as suspected religious affiliation and ethnicity." http://bit.ly/2tjSGDj

JOSH ROGIN in WaPo, "The State Department just broke a promise to minority and female recruits": "Dozens of young minority and female State Department recruits received startling and unwelcome news last week: They would not be able to soon join the Foreign Service despite having been promised that opportunity. Their saga is just the latest sign that Secretary of State Rex Tillerson's rush to slash the size of the State Department without a plan is harming diplomacy and having negative unintended effects. The recruits, who are part of the State Department's Rangel and Pickering fellowship programs, have already completed two years of graduate-level education at U.S. taxpayers' expense plus an internship, often in a foreign country. ... Many were shocked when they received a letter telling them they had one week to decide if they wanted to take a much less appealing job - stamping passports in a foreign embassy for two years - with the prospect but no guarantee of becoming a Foreign Service officer even after that." http://wapo.st/2rMlgel

THE RESISTANCE -- "Cecile Richards on Planned Parenthood, the Resistance, and Galvanizing the Next Generation of Activists," by Jonathan Van Meter in Vogue: "The day after Donald Trump's election, the collective panic and despair on the left

translated into a tidal wave of donations that went overwhelmingly to two nonprofits: Planned Parenthood and the American Civil Liberties Union. Both were founded a century ago, and they have been working closely together ever since. (When Planned Parenthood founder Margaret Sanger was arrested in 1916 for handing out pamphlets on how women could avoid pregnancy, it was ACLU founder Roger Baldwin who came to her defense.)

"It was as if a huge swath of progressive America -more than 600,000 new donors to Planned Parenthood and 1.6 million to the ACLU-intuited that these organizations were now the twin pillars of a newly emboldened progressive movement, and their leaders, Anthony Romero, the ACLU's executive director, and Richards, were the faces of the resistance. It was a perfect pairing-the two are close friends, staunch allies, and battle-tested generals of their respective armies. 'Cecile and I understand each other,' says Romero. 'We have the same value system. When I'm having a hard day, I call her and say, 'You need to help me dust myself off.' She is always empathetic, but always the first one to push you back out there.'" http://bit.ly/2sKoBj6

NEW PETS -- @SecondLady: "We welcomed a new kitten to our family during our trip back home to Indiana this weekend!Introducing: Hazel!" http://bit.ly/2tk3Zvl ...**@VPPressSec:** "New Second Dog - Harley - got his first ride on Air Force Two with @VP. Next exploring the grounds & house at Vice President's Residence." http://bit.ly/2tk1d97

QUOTE OF THE DAY -- "I have people knocking down my door to talk to the presidential personnel office. ... There is a huge demand to join this administration," Sean Spicer to WaPo's Lisa Rein and Abby Phillip. http://wapo.st/2sKR48J

TODAY'S BEYOND THE BELTWAY -- Orange County Republicans prepare for a fight -- Lawmakers leaves Albany without any deals http://politi.co/2tkiBe5

MEDIAWATCH -- EYE-POPPING VALUATION -- "Vice raises $450 million from TPG," by CNBC's Michelle Castillo: "Vice has raised a new $450 million round of funding from TPG, Vice Media CEO Shane Smith told CNBC. With the minority investment from TPG, the company is now valued at $5.7 billion." http://cnb.cx/2tkqjVJ

-- @mcalderone: "News I hate to report: @samsteinhp joining the Daily Beast." ... **@DylanByers:** "Media Move: The @JoePompeo, author of Politico's Morning Media newsletter, is joining Vanity Fair's @VFHIVE as senior media correspondent."

COMING ATTRACTIONS -- The Reagan Years, a film co-directed by Sierra Pettengill and Pacho Velez, will open in theaters on June 26. The film is entirely archival footage that has largely been unseen. It will air on CNN in September. *Trailer* http://bit.ly/2sJZ9KN

OUT AND ABOUT -- Over the weekend, more than 600 Mississippians gathered at the Henry Bacon Ballfield for the Mississippi Society's annual Mississippi on the Mall event.

SPOTTED: Rep. Steven Palazzo (R-Miss.) and son Bear, Brad White, Michelle Barlow Richardson; University of Southern Mississippi's President Rodney Bennett and Vice-President Gordon Cannon, Nick Owens; Susan Sweat, Robert Murray (with baby boy Brooks), Sarah Lloyd Stevenson, Nicole Tisdale, Brett Richards, Samantha Helton, Mary Margaret Johnson, Frances Stringer and many Capitol Hill staffers and alumni tailgating with Lincoln.

****** **A message from Starbucks:** Veterans and military spouses strengthen communities through leadership, service and citizenship. Starbucks is hiring 25,000 veterans and military spouses by 2025, opening 100 additional Military Family Stores in the next five years and expanding our partnerships to create successful transitions for service members and spouses. Learn more: http://sbux.co/2stiS17 ******

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From: POLITICO
Sent: Tue 7/25/2017 7:06:12 PM
Subject: BREAKING NEWS: Republicans vote to move ahead on Obamacare repeal

Senate Republicans narrowly prevailed on a key procedural vote on Obamacare repeal legislation, a big win for President Donald Trump and GOP leaders after their repeal effort was all but left for dead last week.

Vice President Mike Pence was expected to break a tie.

Republicans will now start work on legislation, with a series of votes expected in the coming days and the outcome uncertain.

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To: Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
From: Anna Palmer Jake Sherman Daniel Lippman
Sent: Sun 8/27/2017 3:40:32 PM
Subject: POLITICO Playbook, presented by Chevron: TRUMP TO HOUSTON as soon as possible -- TRUMP knocks Claire McCaskill by initial only -- SUNDAY BEST: Tillerson: the president speaks for himself on Charlottesville -- B'DAY: Danielle Weisberg

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Today's POLITICO Playbook presented by Chevron

By JAKE SHERMAN (sherman@politico.com; @JakeSherman), ANNA PALMER (anna@politico.com; @apalmerdc) and DANIEL LIPPMAN (daniel@politico.com; @dlippman)

Visit the online home of Playbook

Driving the Day

Good Sunday morning. TRUMP SAYS HE'S GOING TO TEXAS -- @realDonaldTrump at 8:59 a.m.: "I will be going to Texas as soon as that trip can be made without causing disruption. The focus must be life and safety."

-- THE KEY PHRASE: "As soon as that trip can be made without causing disruption." The situation in Houston is very bad, and a presidential visit might take some time. We hear this week is a possibility.

GEORGE STEPHANOPOULOS asks **TEXAS GOV. GREG ABBOTT** on **ABC'S "THIS WEEK"** about a Trump visit: **STEPHANOPOULOS:** "The White House has said the president is expecting to visit Texas this week. Does that make sense right now? And will that is averting resources away from the relief effort?" **ABBOTT:** "Well, it depends. As you know, we had a hurricane hit around the Corpus Christi area, that is now moving northeast and is over closer to the Houston area. And it depends on where he goes. We are already, for example, involved in a cleanup process in Corpus Christi.

"If the president were to visit there, it wouldn't hinder any efforts. We'll just have to wait and see where the storm goes, understanding that this entire storm has been very unpredictable in its movement. And I couldn't tell you right now where it will be in two days."

THE WHIPLASH PRESIDENCY -- JUST THIS MORNING: Boasting about the government's response to Hurricane Harvey. Mild railing on Missouri Sen. Claire McCaskill. Promising a wall with Mexico. Threatening to pull out of NAFTA.

TRUMP'S SUNDAY MORNING -- @realDonald Trump at 8:25 a.m.: "Many people are

now saying that this is the worst storm/hurricane they have ever seen. Good news is that we have great talent on the ground." ... **at 8:04 a.m.:** "Great coordination between agencies at all levels of government. Continuing rains and flash floods are being dealt with. Thousands rescued." ... **at 9:15 a.m.:** "I will also be going to a wonderful state, Missouri, that I won by a lot in '16. Dem C.M. is opposed to big tax cuts. Republican will win S!" ...

... at 9:25 a.m.: "Wow - Now experts are calling #Harvey a once in 500 year flood! We have an all out effort going, and going well!" ... **at 9:44 a.m.** : "With Mexico being one of the highest crime Nations in the world, we must have THE WALL. Mexico will pay for it through reimbursement/other." ... **at 10:31 a.m.:** "Going to a Cabinet Meeting (tele-conference) at 11:00 A.M. on #Harvey. Even experts have said they've never seen one like this!" ... **at 10:39 a.m.:** "Major rescue operations underway!"

-- TRUMP'S TAX ROADSHOW. Trump is going to Missouri to discuss tax reform this week. Yes, Sen. Claire McCaskill is up for reelection in 2018. This will be Trump's most recent foray into a red state Democrat's home turf. It could be instructive for how Trump will go on the offensive for the midterms - McCaskill's seat is a huge target for Senate Republicans. While Trump is there to talk taxes, most expect he will also veer away from pushing a rewrite of the tax code. McCaskill, like most Democrats, is probably not gettable if Republicans go it alone on tax reform. If Trump's tax roadshow is going to be an extended riff on how Democrats are obstructionists, it won't help Trump get 218 votes in the House or 50 votes in the Senate.

HOUSTON SLAMMED -- "Tropical Storm Harvey brings worst-ever flooding to Houston," by the Houston Chronicle's Susan Carroll, Dug Begley, Mark Collette, and St. John Barned Smith: "Tropical Storm Harvey officially became Houston's worst storm on record overnight, dumping heavy rains across the city and overflowed bayous, leaving swaths of the city submerged in floodwater.

"'It's catastrophic, unprecedented, epic -- whatever adjective you want to use,' said Patrick Blood, a NWS meteorologist. 'It's pretty horrible right now.' City officials tweeted early Sunday morning that the 911 system was at capacity, urging people to shelter in place if they can. 'Only call if in imminent danger.' On Twitter, people begged for help. 'Parents and 4 children need rescuing!' someone tweeted from the I-45 and Edgebrook area. 'Blowing up mattress for last case scenario.' The unconfirmed death toll by the National Weather Service reached five, but authorities expected that to climb as the waters recede. ...

"In Harris County, the heaviest rainfall over the past 12 hours were around Webster, where the county flood control gauge on the Galveston County line registered 20.2 inches since 7 p.m. Blood said the computer models show no signs of the rain letting up soon. 'Harvey is not going to move much over the next few days,' he said." http://bit.ly/2gfamOq

--HOUSTON CHRONICLE A1: "STATE OF DESTRUCTION" http://bit.ly/2vt7JuY

DEPT OF TAX REFORM IS HARD -- WSJ: "Large Companies Oppose Idea for Taxing Foreign Profits: Congressional Republicans are weighing minimum tax, but alliance warns of unintended consequences," by Rich Rubin: "Congressional Republicans are trying to write new rules for taxing foreign profits of U.S. corporations, and a group of large, influential companies is warning against one prominent option.

"Under current law, companies owe the full 35% corporate-tax rate on their worldwide earnings and have to pay it on any profits they bring back to the U.S. That system encourages companies to book profits overseas and leave them there. The issue is often a flashpoint in debates over changing the tax code. Republicans want to lower the corporate-tax rate and let companies bring future global profits home without paying U.S. taxes on top of foreign taxes. They are searching for a way to do that without giving companies an incentive to move more operations and profits to countries with far lower taxes.

"One alternative Republicans are considering is a minimum tax on those profits. But such a tax would have 'unintended and adverse consequences,' the business group, which includes companies such as Eli Lilly & Co., United Technologies Corp. and United Parcel Service Inc., told top lawmakers this month in a previously undisclosed policy paper." http://on.wsj.com/2w8Yym9

JOE BIDEN in **The Atlantic** on Charlottesville: **"'We Are Living Through a Battle for the Soul of This Nation":** "The giant forward steps we have taken in recent years on civil liberties and civil rights and human rights are being met by a ferocious pushback from the oldest and darkest forces in America. Are we really surprised they rose up? Are we really surprised they lashed back? Did we really think they would be extinguished with a whimper rather than a fight? ...

"Today we have an American president who has publicly proclaimed a moral equivalency between neo-Nazis and Klansmen and those who would oppose their venom and hate. We have an American president who has emboldened white supremacists with messages of comfort and support. This is a moment for this nation to declare what the president can't with any clarity, consistency, or conviction: There is no place for these hate groups in America. Hatred of blacks, Jews, immigrants-all who are seen as 'the other'-won't be accepted or tolerated or given safe harbor anywhere in this nation." http://theatln.tc/2xnwfPH

CHRIS WALLACE speaking with **SECRETARY OF STATE REX TILLERSON** on **FOX'S "FOX NEWS SUNDAY": TILLERSON:** "I don't believe anyone doubts the American people's values or the commitment of the American government or the government's agencies to advancing those values and defending those values." **WALLACE:** "And the President's values?" **TILLERSON:** "The president speaks for himself, Chris." **WALLACE:** "Are you separating yourself from that sir?" **TILLERSON:** "I have spoken. I have made my own comments as to our values as well in a speech I gave to the State Department this past week."

****** **A message from Chevron:** We're piloting a program that uses drones to keep an eye on Chevron wells, tanks, and pipelines-all to keep DOERS and what they're doin' safer. Watch the video: http://politi.co/2vLsVyX ******

DEPT. OF RULE OF LAW -- "Trump asked Sessions about closing case against Arpaio, an ally since 'birtherism,'" by WaPo's Phil Rucker and Ellen Nakashima: "As Joseph Arpaio's federal case headed toward trial this past spring, President Trump wanted to act to help the former Arizona county sheriff who had become a campaign-trail companion and a partner in their crusade against illegal immigration. The president asked Attorney General Jeff Sessions whether it would be possible for the government to drop the criminal case against Arpaio, but was advised that would be inappropriate, according to three people with knowledge of the conversation.

"After talking with Sessions, Trump decided to let the case go to trial, and if Arpaio was convicted, he could grant clemency. So the president waited, all the while planning to issue a pardon if Arpaio was found in contempt of court for defying a federal judge's order to stop detaining people merely because he suspected them of being undocumented immigrants. Trump was, in the words of one associate, 'gung-ho about it.'" http://wapo.st/2vzF9Yi

NYT'S ADAM LIPTAK: "Why Trump's Pardon of Arpaio Follows Law, Yet Challenges It": "President Trump's decision to pardon Joe Arpaio was characteristically unconventional. It came late on a Friday night as a hurricane bore down on Texas. It concerned a crime some said was particularly ill-suited to clemency, and it was not the product of the care and deliberation that have informed pardons by other presidents. But it was almost certainly lawful. The Constitution gives presidents extremely broad power to grant pardons.

"Last month, a federal judge found Mr. Arpaio, a former Arizona sheriff, guilty of criminal contempt for defying a court order to stop detaining immigrants based solely on the suspicion that they were in the country illegally. The order had been issued in a lawsuit that accused the sheriff's office of violating the Constitution by using racial profiling to jail Latinos. Mr. Arpaio had faced a sentence of up to six months in jail.

"Mr. Trump thus used his constitutional power to block a federal judge's effort to enforce the Constitution. Legal experts said they found this to be the most troubling aspect of the pardon, given that it excused the lawlessness of an official who had sworn to defend the constitutional structure." http://nyti.ms/2vsI5Xm

-- **@MeetThePress**: "On political pardons, like Arpaio, Gov @JohnKasich: 'I wouldn't have done it this way. It's out of bounds.' #MTP". ***Video*** http://nbcnews.to/2vtfmSh

SPEAKER PAUL RYAN'S OFFICE: "The speaker does not agree with this decision. Law enforcement officials have a special responsibility to respect the rights of everyone in the United States. We should not allow anyone to believe that responsibility is

diminished by this pardon."

-- BREITBART hits its favorite target: **"Paul Ryan Throws in with Leftists to Attack President Trump's Pardon of Sheriff Joe Arpaio"** http://bit.ly/2wfHidp

GORKA SPEAKS -- "EXCLUSIVE- 'Like the Last Scene of Star Wars': Sebastian Gorka Compares Battle Against Globalist Cabal to Rebel Alliance Fighting Evil Empire," by Breitbart's Matt Boyle: "'We are winning and we will continue to do so,' Gorka said. 'With Steve back at the helm, it's like the last scene from Star Wars. Do you remember what Obi Wan Kenobi said to Darth [Vader]? 'If you strike me down, I will be more powerful than you can ever imagine.' The left thinks they're winning. They have no idea what's coming around the corner, and it's going to be fun, Matt. You know it.'" http://bit.ly/2ggxJH7

-- THE LEFT SHOULDN'T WORRY. It's the institutional right that should worry.

ON THE WORLD STAGE -- "Merkel has no regrets over refugee policy despite political cost," by Reuters' Erik Kirschbaum in Berlin: "German Chancellor Angela Merkel said she has no regrets about her 2015 decision to open the country's borders to hundreds of thousands of refugees and added she will not be deterred from campaigning by angry hecklers. In an interview with the Welt am Sonntag newspaper on Sunday, Merkel denied she had made any mistakes with her open-door policy even though the arrival of a million refugees over the last two years from Syria and Iraq opened deep rifts in her conservative party and depressed its support. ...

"'I'd make all the important decisions of 2015 the same way again,' Merkel said. 'It was an extraordinary situation and I made my decision based on what I thought was right from a political and humanitarian standpoint.' 'Those kinds of extraordinary situations happen every once in a while in a country's history,' she added. 'The head of government has to act and I did.'" http://reut.rs/2w98qfX

ADELSON'S NEWSPAPER -- ISRAEL HAYOM: "In effort to revive peace talks, US asks PA to halt diplomatic offensive against Israel": http://bit.ly/2vAlpnr

MELANIA WATCH -- "First lady appears to borrow from Michelle Obama's playbook," by AP's Darlene Superville: "Bare arms and a belted waist, a White House vegetable garden and parents in the residence: Melania Trump is borrowing pages from Michelle Obama's playbook. From public policy to high fashion to family ties, Mrs. Trump is keeping alive parts of the former first lady's legacy even as President Donald Trump's administration alters other aspects. Mrs. Obama made it acceptable for first ladies to shun the confining, jewel-toned suits that her predecessors wore like uniforms, and her successor is embracing that same free-wheeling fashion sense.

"During President Trump's first overseas trip in late May, the current first lady stepped off of Air Force One in Saudi Arabia wearing a long-sleeved, black jumpsuit accented with a wide, gold belt. A former model, Mrs. Trump has worn a number of

sleeveless and belted outfits since, almost always paired with towering heels. She has kept Mrs. Obama's vegetable garden, and shown interest in women's empowerment, military families and children's issues. Mrs. Obama championed all as first lady. But where Mrs. Obama frequently hosted public events in the garden to encourage healthy eating, Mrs. Trump has yet to hold an activity there." http://bit.ly/2xDDGl9

SUNDAY BEST ... MAJOR GARRETT speaks with **TEXAS GOV. GREG ABBOTT** on **CBS' "FACE THE NATION": GARRETT:** "After Katrina the U.S. military came in and brought substantial logistics supply movement and order. Do you foresee any circumstance, governor, where you might request that kind of effort to assist you?" **ABBOTT:** "We'll have to wait and see. The collaboration of the professionals in Houston and Harris County combined with the assets the state is providing have it covered for now. We'll have to see where it goes from here. There are different weather predictions. One is that this storm could hover over the Houston area for a couple of days. If so, this could get even worse. But we will take it step by step."

JAKE TAPPER speaks with **FEMA DIRECTOR BROCK LONG** on **CNN'S "STATE OF THE UNION": TAPPER:** "The Trump administration is, of course, facing this hurricane with many vacancies in a number of important positions. We're missing a permanent secretary of homeland security right now. Two deputy director nominees at FEMA still await confirmation, as you well know. There has not been a nomination for anyone to head the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association. The National Hurricane Center is currently searching for a director. Is it going to be OK, even with all these vacancies?

LONG: "Yes. You know what? I don't even have time to worry about it right now. But what I have seen inside my agency is, I have got some of the most dedicated people in the entire federal government, great lines of communications with the president. He's extremely concerned, incredibly engaged.

"Everything is working through. And just because there's not a leader in some of these areas, you have got some dedicated, highly knowledgeable, experienced work force in each one of these agencies, and they know this mission. And we're putting it down and we're there. We're leaning forward, and we're going to continue to support the state and local governments. I have no concern. We are doing our job."

-- TILLERSON to **CHRIS WALLACE** on **AFGHANISTAN:** "I think the president has been clear, Chris, that this is a dramatic shift in terms of the military strategy. We are shifting from a time based military strategy that had very clear troop ceiling levels to now, as he indicated, a conditions-based strategy which means it will be dictated by conditions on the ground and formed by battlefield commanders. He has also delegated significant authority to Secretary Mattis to set troop levels but also has been able to delegate further to military commanders in the field decision making to begin to turn the tide against the Taliban."

"Our objective is to deny any terrorist organization any territory with which they can

organize, raise financing, recruit new fighters, develop techniques for carrying out terrorist attacks and then deploying those. We know that if we deny them the space to do that, we protect the homeland, we also protect Americans and our allies as well."

-- @johnson_carrie: "Karl Rove on @FoxNewsSunday says Trump was 'making a political statement' with Arpaio pardon, calls it 'a bad mistake.'"

JUST LIKE HICKENLOOPER TOLD US ... CHUCK TODD speaks with **OHIO GOV. JOHN KASICH** on **NBC'S "MEET THE PRESS": TODD:** "Well, let me ask you about that, with both parties obviously there was some fun speculation about 2020 bubbling up. And the idea, you mentioned John Hickenlooper, the governor of Colorado, that you two are working together, trying to come up with a bipartisan fix here on the state exchanges and the health care law in general. And somebody floated the idea that it could be a 2020 unity ticket. Are you, could you imagine yourself leaving the Republican Party to do something like this?" **KASICH:** "Chuck, look, Kasich/Hickenlooper. You couldn't--first of all, you couldn't pronounce it. And secondly, you couldn't fit it on a bumper sticker. But here's what I do want to say, because Hickenlooper and I--" **TODD:** "That's not a denial." ...

KASICH: "The answer is no, ok. But here's what--I do want people to think about this, because Hickenlooper and I work together cynics out there say, 'Well, they want something.' Because we want to stabilize health care and make sure that poor people have something people assume there's a motive. You know, sometimes people actually do things because they're trying to help somebody. And when we do that everybody ought not to say, 'Well, what's in it for them?' This growing cynicism eats at the fabric of the spirit of our country. It's not--it really aggravates--not much that aggravates me. That does."

CARL HULSE speaks to **SEN. JEFF FLAKE (R-ARIZ.)** http://nyti.ms/2xnVEZA

SPORTS BLINK -- "Mayweather stops McGregor with 10th-round TKO to go 50-0," by USA Today's Bob Velin: https://usat.ly/2wzo4Cc

Playbook Reads

PHOTO DU JOUR : Ruben Sazon holds his hat in the wind as he walks past his business that was destroyed by Hurricane Harvey, on Aug. 26, in Rockport, Texas. | Eric Gay/AP Photo

WOAH... -- "Zinke's veteran daughter excoriates Trump in response to transgender military ban," by Billings Gazette's Jayme Fraser: "The daughter of Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, like her father a Navy veteran, appears, in the rawest of terms, to have excoriated President Donald Trump in a social media post after the announcement that transgender soldiers would be banned from the military. 'This man is

a disgrace. I've tried to keep politics out of my social media feed as much as possible, but this is inexcusable,' read a July 26 public Instagram post from what appears to be the account of Jennifer Detlefsen, the Navy diver daughter Zinke frequently mentioned in his successful 2016 re-election campaign for the U.S. House. ... 'This veteran says sit down and shut the (expletive) up, you know-nothing, never-served piece of (expletive).' She also used a hashtag, #itmfa, that is an acronym for 'impeach the (expletive) already.'" http://bit.ly/2xnPo3Y ... ***See the Instagram post*** http://bit.ly/2wJLftX

2018 WATCH -- "Democrats exploit GOP ethics woes in battle for the House," by Elena Schneider and Austin Wright: "Duncan Hunter's Southern California district isn't normally a serious target for Democrats. But a criminal investigation into allegations of campaign funds for personal use - including flying his pet rabbit across the country - isn't exactly normal either. Hunter is one of a handful of House Republicans in ethical hot water that could put their typically safe seats at risk. And the [DCCC] is planning to exploit their troubles in 2018 in the hopes of notching long-shot victories that could be the difference between winning the House or falling just short. ...

"Among the incumbents on their early target list are California Rep. Dana Rohrabacher, whose ties to Russian officials have come under scrutiny and was once warned by the FBI that Russian spies were trying to recruit him; New Jersey Rep. Rodney Frelinghuysen, who faces an ethics complaint from an outside watchdog group over a letter that some perceived as targeting an activist; New York Rep. Chris Collins, whose stock-market investments are under investigation; Montana Rep. Greg Gianforte, who pleaded guilty to assault for attacking a reporter; and California Rep. Devin Nunes, whose handling of classified information is being investigated by the House Ethics Committee." http://politi.co/2wSpgjT

HMM -- "Ex-Trump adviser helps Iraqis president wants to deport - for a price," by Nahal Toosi: "A former campaign adviser to Donald Trump is offering to testify in court on behalf of Iraqi Christians in the United States who suddenly face deportation under the Republican president - for a hefty fee. Walid Phares, a Lebanese-American academic, advised Trump on foreign affairs during the 2016 presidential campaign. He also has appeared on the Fox News and Fox Business channels to promote Trump's national security policies, including the travel bans that would temporarily bar Iraqi Christian refugees, among others, from U.S. soil.

"At the same time, Phares charges unusually high fees - up to $15,000 or more, according to lawyers - to testify in immigration proceedings about the dangers facing people deported to Iraq, where Christians and others with U.S. ties are often killed. Activists who work with Iraqis in the U.S. are questioning Phares' dual role as an advocate of Trump's harsher immigration policies and a defender of those who are being affected." http://politi.co/2iBtW8r

WAPO -- Ecstasy could be 'breakthrough' therapy for soldiers, others suffering from PTSD," by William Wan: "For Jon Lubecky, the scars on his wrists are a reminder of the years he spent in mental purgatory. He returned from an Army deployment in Iraq

a broken man. He heard mortar shells and helicopters where there were none. He couldn't sleep and drank until he passed out. He got every treatment offered by Veterans Affairs for post-traumatic stress disorder. But they didn't stop him from trying to kill himself - five times.

"Finally, he signed up for an experimental therapy and was given a little green capsule. The anguish stopped. Inside that pill was a compound named MDMA, better known by dealers and rave partygoers as ecstasy. That street drug is emerging as the most promising tool to come along in years for the military's escalating PTSD epidemic. The MDMA program was created by a small group of psychedelic researchers who had toiled for years in the face of ridicule, funding shortages and skepticism. But the results have been so positive that this month the Food and Drug Administration deemed it a 'breakthrough therapy' -- setting it on a fast track for review and potential approval." http://wapo.st/2viaseL

****** **A message from Chevron:** This is a story about energy, safety, and some truly high-flyin' doin'. We're piloting a program that uses drones, HD imaging, and thermal mapping to help keep a close eye on Chevron wells, tanks, and pipelines-all to keep DOERS and what they're doin' safer. Watch the video: http://politi.co/2vLsVyX ******

BEN SCHRECKINGER in POLITICO Magazine, **"The Trouble With Ivanka's Business Partner:** The first daughter's longtime friend and associate is falling afoul of his creditors-and the courts": "His vendors call him a 'career grifter.' His father's creditors claim he's a fraud and a serial extortionist who shakes people down with trumped-up threats of criminal charges. With these and other allegations piling up in court records along with judgments-against him, his wife and his businesses-for millions of dollars, his lawyers are abandoning him, saying he's a deadbeat. All the while, he's been living in one of the most luxurious mansions in the Bronx.Meet Ivanka Trump's longtime friend, matchmaker and business partner, Moshe Lax. For the past decade, Lax, a 43-year-old New York diamond heir and entrepreneur, has been Trump's partner in Ivanka Trump Fine Jewelry, the first major venture of her business career. Trump and her family have continued to associate with Lax even as his legal problems have mounted and Trump has been dragged into Lax's business disputes." http://politi.co/2wfB5yj

BONUS GREAT WEEKEND READS, curated by Daniel Lippman:

-- "The Great Pot Monopoly Mystery," by Amanda Chicago Lewis in GQ: "Some very powerful people are trying to corner the market on legal weed and turn their company into the Monsanto of marijuana. Who are they? And can they be stopped?" http://bit.ly/2wcnwQ6 (h/t Longreads.com)

-- "Mark Lilla Vs. Identity Politics," by Rod Dreher in The American Conservative: "'To understand what ails this country you need to pay attention to difference. In order to fix what ails us you need to hold onto the universal democratic ideal. It is very hard to make identitarians see this. Politics is not a speech act. It is not about getting recognition for

certain groups who have problems, it is about acquiring power to help them.'" http://bit.ly/2vdEmkx (h/t TheBrowser.com)

-- "Must She Choose? -- The Family Leave Dilemma: Is there a federal answer?" by the Weekly Standard's Alice B. Lloyd in her cover debut: "The United States stands alone among 41 economically comparable democratic nations in not mandating paid leave for new parents, according to data presented last year by the [OECD]. The U.N. reported in 2014 that only Suriname, Oman, Papua New Guinea, and a smattering of South Pacific islands joined the United States in offering new mothers no form of paid leave." http://tws.io/2vetDpH

-- "The biggest thing Trump doesn't get about George Washington," by CNN's Mark Preston: "'Washington fought a war to establish a new country based upon the idea of liberty, the ideals of the Declaration of Independence,' Douglas Bradburn, founding director of the George Washington presidential library, said in a telephone interview this week. 'Lee fought a war based upon the ideals of the secessionists, the idea that slavery was a positive good.'" http://cnn.it/2xDBvxY

-- "After Charlottesville, New Shades of Gray in a Changing South," by Tony Horwitz in the WSJ: "Celebrations of the Confederacy have steadily ebbed, and the recent confrontations will accelerate this retreat among all but the extremists." http://on.wsj.com/2vsQwSA

-- "A Made-for-Tabloid Murder," by Maureen Orth in the August 2003 Vanity Fair: "On Christmas Eve, a pretty, young, pregnant wife goes missing. Right after the Iraq war, her body washes up, and her husband is arrested. With its heartbreaking details and perfect timing, the Laci Peterson murder has become America's No. 1 crime and human-interest story. In Modesto, California, where National Enquirer reporters wield huge checks, cable-news anchors fight over gruesome autopsy exclusives, and the most elusive prey is Scott Peterson's 'motive,' Amber Frey, the author reports on three families, a town, and an industry, all consumed by a national obsession." http://bit.ly/2w5rBan

-- "The Girl from Plainville," by Jesse Barron in Esquire: "Can words kill? Earlier this year, a young woman from a small town in Massachusetts stood trial for homicide. Prosecutors argued that her calls and texts fueled her boyfriend's suicide. The judge's shocking verdict answered the question of whether speech alone was enough to make her guilty in his death, but it left a larger question untouched: What was Michelle Carter thinking?" http://bit.ly/2wbJqml (h/t Longform.org)

-- "The Mysteries of the Russian Mindset," by Christian Neef in Der Spiegel: "Putin initially thought like a Westerner, but ultimately realized why every Russian ruler struggles to lead this nation: Because its inhabitants, in accordance with an unshakable tradition, freely delegate all their power to a single person, and then wait for that power to take care of them, without doing anything themselves. Liberalism has no chance in Russia. The people won't allow it." http://bit.ly/2ixd3eZ (h/t TheBrowser.com)

-- **"Neoliberalism: the idea that swallowed the world,"** by Stephen Metcalfe in The Guardian: "Neoliberalism is a name for the premise that, quietly, has come to regulate all we practise and believe: That competition is the only legitimate organising principle for human activity. Thirty years on, and it can fairly be said that Hayek's victory is unrivalled. We live in a paradise built by his Big Idea. The more closely the world can be made to resemble an ideal market governed only by perfect competition, the more law-like and 'scientific' human behaviour, in the aggregate, becomes." http://bit.ly/2w59Qbh

-- **"Without Chick Parsons, General MacArthur May Never Have Made His Famed Return to the Philippines,"** by Peter Eisner in Smithsonian: "Before World War II, Parsons had been the toast of Manila society, successful in business and unrivaled on the polo field, a gregarious, muscular expat American with a shock of wavy brown hair, a winning smile and an eagle tattooed across the expanse of his chest." http://bit.ly/2wbxMIp

-- **"Into the Fray,"** by Sophia Jones in GW Magazine: "In covering conflict abroad, a foreign correspondent finds purpose not on the front lines, but in the silences just beyond, where reverberations of war seldom find daylight." http://bit.ly/2wvf6G6

-- " **How Science Is Unlocking the Secrets of Addiction,"** by Fran Smith on the cover of September's NatGeo: "We're learning more about the craving that fuels self-defeating habits-and how new discoveries can help us kick the habit." http://on.natgeo.com/2xA3Ftv ... ***The cover*** http://politi.co/2wFJCxC

-- **"Trying to pry open the black box of heartbreak,"** by Mandy Len Catron on TED.com: "Why does love end - and why does it hurt so darn much? We can take a bit of creature comfort in knowing that other animals seem to suffer, too." http://bit.ly/2gcTW8Z

Playbookers

SPOTTED: Sen. James Lankford (R-Okla.) at Dunkin' Donuts early Sunday morning at DCA. "Stopped by a well-wisher, he filmed a brief message and then dashed off to a gate," per our tipster.

WEEKEND WEDDING - "Leigh Shirvan, David Helfenbein" - N.Y. Times: "Mrs. Helfenbein, 31, is the president and founder of Leigh Aubrey Communications in New York, where she consults for restaurants on their social media and marketing campaigns. She is also the founder of the food Instagram account HungryObsession. She graduated from the University of Wisconsin. ... Mr. Helfenbein, also 31, is a senior adviser in New York for Main & Rose, a personal and corporate strategic branding company based in Los Angeles. In September he is to become a senior vice president there. Previously he worked for Hillary Clinton when she was secretary of state, as the

social media coordinator in the office of strategic communication at the State Department, and as a legislative correspondent in the Senate. He graduated magna cum laude from the University of Pennsylvania. He received a law degree from Washington University in St. Louis." ***With pic*** http://nyti.ms/2vAn38j ... ***Wedding pics*** http://bit.ly/2wSrgZr ... http://bit.ly/2xofHam

WELCOME TO THE WORLD - Jane Lucas, deputy director in the office of health reform at HHS and former LD for Sen. Thune, and **Chris Lucas,** director of global gov't affairs for Bank of New York Mellon and a former aide to Republican Sens. Mike Rounds (S.D.) and Chuck Grassley (Iowa) and former Republican Sen. Olympia Snowe (Maine), recently welcomed Grace Emily Lucas. ***Pic*** http://politi.co/2wJ6M66

BIRTHWEEK (was yesterday): Morra Aarons-Mele, author of "Hiding in the Bathroom" (***$17.53 on Amazon*** http://amzn.to/2wcQiCl) (hat tip: Jon Haber) ... **(was Friday):** Weekly Standard reporter Jen Lifhits, celebrating this weekend at home with family in Connecticut (h/t Tim Mak)

BIRTHDAY OF THE DAY: Josh Mankiewicz, correspondent for NBC's "Dateline," which will be starting its 26th season in late September. **A trend he thinks should get more attention:** "The colossal wave of violence in this country against women, by men. Most of it never makes it to an emergency room, a police blotter, or into print." **Read his Playbook Plus Q&A:** http://politi.co/2iz7jBe

BIRTHDAYS: Rachel Racusen, celebrating in Milwaukee at her brother-in-law's wedding (h/t Peter Hamby) ... former Sen. Bob Kerrey (D-Neb.) ... NYT daily book critic Jennifer Senior, an NYMag alum ... Roger Stone ... Steve Clemons, Washington editor-at-large at The Atlantic ... Politico's Darius Dixon, Megan Cassella, and Sarah Gamard ... Xavier Pugliese ... Peter Sterne, senior reporter and managing editor of the U.S. Press Freedom Tracker (h/t Hanna Trudo) ... Jedd Rosche, CNN Politics Congress editor ... Ben Neal ... Blake Sobczak, cybersecurity reporter for E&E News ... Danielle Weisberg, co-founder of theSkimm ... Josh Paciorek of VP Pence's office ... Morris Jones ... Pete Boyle, VP of public affairs at the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities ... Jim Osman ... Christopher Brown, VP of EFB Advocacy ... August Skamenca ... Christine O'Donnell ...

... Ty Matsdorf ... Melissa Sellers ... Edgar Abrams ... Kelsey Berg ... Francesca McCrary ... Sarah Schenning ... Peter Rothfeld ... former Sen. Robert Torricelli (D-N.J.) ... Moutray McLaren ... former Rep. Kathy Hochul (D-N.Y.) ... Linda McKay ... Marilyn Renner ... Jon Kinney ... Politico Europe's Pierre H. Teheux ... BBC's Katrina Salhioui ... Ruth Harkin, the first woman to be elected county prosecutor in the State of Iowa ... Leah Daughtry ... Marcia Frew ... Steve Aldrich ... Jeannette O'Connor (h/ts Teresa Vilmain) ... CRC's Megan Wilburn ... Donald St. Clair ... Nicole Charalambous ... Paul Reubens ... Bill Hamilton ... Jason Houser ... Mindy Tucker Fletcher ... Sean Healy ... Robert Cole ... Ellar Coltrane ("Boyhood") (h/t AP)

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high-flyin' doin'. We're piloting a program that uses drones, HD imaging, and thermal mapping to help keep a close eye on Chevron wells, tanks, and pipelines-all to keep DOERS and what they're doin' safer. Watch the video: http://politi.co/2vLsVyX ******

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Daily Environment Report

June 30, 2017 - Number 125

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Leading the News

Air Pollution
EPA Coal Jobs Analysis Halted in Blow to Murray Energy
The EPA doesn't have to complete a time-consuming, resource-intensive analysis of how air pollution regulations impact jobs after a federal appeals court nullified a lower court's ruling requiring the report.

Energy
Nuclear Group Lauds Trump Call to Study Industry Challenges
The nuclear industry's advocacy arm is welcoming President Donald Trump's call for a comprehensive study of the industry's challenges, saying it hopes such efforts can revitalize Westinghouse Electric Co. and other companies.

Energy
Trump Vows to Unleash Nation's 'Vast Energy Wealth'
President Donald Trump said he is lifting an Obama-era policy that curtailed the financing of coal-fired power plants overseas, as he seeks to reorient the U.S. government away from fighting climate change and toward American "energy dominance."

News

Chemicals
Correction
The June 28 story, "Chemical Makers Can Ask, Pay for Part of EPA Risk Analysis," incorrectly said the EPA had decided chemical manufacturers could pay for only part of a chemical risk evaluation they request. The agency's June 22 final risk evaluation does not discuss the fees chemical manufacturers would pay when they ask the agency to evaluate

some—but not all—chemical uses. The story also should have clarified that the amended Toxic Substances Control Act caps ...

Chemicals

EPA Backs Off Planned Mandates in Chemical Inventory Rule

Chemical makers, importers and processors will find it easier to submit lists of chemicals in commerce to EPA due to more flexibility the agency built into a recent regulation, industry officials said.

Chemicals

Solvent's Ozone Effects Raised as EPA Starts Analysis

The EPA could face more pressure to regulate a common solvent's uses if environmental advocates convince the agency to evaluate its effect on the ozone layer.

Climate Policy

British Bank Official Worried Investors Not Eyeing Climate Risk

Bank of England Governor Mark Carney said he's concerned investors aren't doing enough to assess threats that global warming will have on assets they purchase.

Climate Policy

Germany Sends $11.4 Million to Aid Brazil Climate Adaptation

Brazil will use half of an $11.4 million donation from Germany to carry out a national climate adaptation plan, a Brazilian environmental official told Bloomberg BNA.

Climate Policy

U.K. Told to Reassess Building Design As Heat Waves Multiply

Britain must reassess the way it designs buildings to cope with a warming climate, stepping away from huge expanses of glass and beyond air conditioning that consumes too much energy, a panel advising the government said.

Coal-Fired Power Plants

Coal's Latest Woe: Even a Clean Coal Plant Won't Burn It

First came the bad weather and construction slowdowns. Then the slide in natural gas prices. Equipment got clogged and then leaks sprung. Design flaws surfaced.

Energy

Broad Senate Energy Bill Revived While House Moves Piecemeal

A sprawling energy bill aimed at expediting liquefied natural gas exports, safeguarding the electricity grid, and improving building efficiency is now on a glide path to Senate floor consideration.

Energy

Democratic Senate Staffer Tapped as Federal Energy Regulator

A Democratic Senate staff member tapped to fill a vacancy at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission could bring years of energy expertise, colleagues say.

Energy

Senate Republicans Seek to Expedite Nuclear Tax Credit Bill

Senate Republicans are seeking permission for expedited vote on legislation that would extend a tax credit for new nuclear reactors, according to notice obtained by Bloomberg.

Energy

Trump Budget May Slow Advent of Carbon-Free Nuclear Fusion

In the rolling hills of East Tennessee, a team of scientists and engineers is working to create a sun on Earth. They're at Oak Ridge National Laboratory, once an integral part of the Manhattan Project's experiments with nuclear fission. More than 70 years later, these 100-odd researchers are focused on nuclear fusion, the other side of that atomic coin. They say they and their counterparts in the European Union, Russia, and China are less than a decade away from a successful demo of ...

Hexavalent Chromium

$10M Honeywell Toxic Dust Settlement Survives Challenge

Honeywell's $10 million settlement with New Jersey home owners who allege their property values were diminished by toxic dust from a pair of Jersey City chemical plants survived a challenge in the Third Circuit (Halley v. Honeywell Intl. Inc., 3d Cir., No. 16-2712, 6/29/17).

International Issues

Merkel Takes on Trump and Brexit in Combative G-20 Preview

German Chancellor Angela Merkel championed Europe, dismissed Brexit and said efforts to fight climate change are irreversible in a combative speech ahead of the Group of 20 summit that's shaping up to be a confrontation over the direction of global policy.

Oil & Gas

Interior to Step Up Pace of Oil, Gas Leasing on Federal Land

The Trump administration will hold oil and gas lease sales more often on federal lands and prioritize promising areas for leasing, a high-level Interior Department official told House lawmakers June 29.

Pesticides

EPA to Reject California's Bid for Marijuana Pesticides

EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt says he will reject California's request to allow a company to sell pesticides for cannabis plants because marijuana cultivation is illegal under federal law.

Pesticides

Pesticide Registration Bill Heads to Senate Floor

The Senate Agriculture Committee approved a pesticide registration bill June 29 with a shorter lifespan than an earlier version.

Petroleum

Shell Oil Can't Skirt Condo Owners' Petroleum Nuisance Claims

Shell Oil Co. will once again face previously dismissed nuisance claims for contamination at a California property it once owned, a California appeals court ruled in an unpublished opinion (Estuary Owners Ass'n v. Shell Oil Co., 2017 BL 223400, Cal. Ct. App., 1st Dist., A145516, unpublished 6/28/17).

Radioactive Waste

Correction

A story published in the June 29 issue, "House Strikes Compromise on Yucca, Interim Nuclear Storage," has been corrected to say a House bill on nuclear waste storage, which the House Energy and Commerce Committee approved June 28, would push the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to finalize a decision on the Yucca Mountain permanent nuclear waste repository within 30 months of enactment. The legislation also would authorize Energy Department funding for just one interim facility ...

Renewable Energy

Germany Opens Door for Landlords to Produce Power

A bill that encourages landlords to install in-house solar panels on the rooftops of apartment buildings and expand renewable energy systems in urban areas passed June 29 in the Bundestag, Germany's lower house of Parliament.

Renewable Energy

Major Win for State Renewable Efforts May End Up Back in Court

A major decision by a federal appeals court in favor of Connecticut's renewable energy program may not be the final say on the matter, the company that filed the suit says.

Sustainability

Tower Blaze Delivers Blow to Niche of the Green Energy Industry

The fire that killed at least 79 people in a residential tower in London earlier this month has delivered a blow to an often overlooked section of the green industry that's crucial to delivering energy efficiency.

Toxic Chemicals

Whistle-blowing Kasowitz Firm Seeks Billions From Chemical Giants (Corrected)

A hard-charging New York law firm was conducting discovery in personal injury litigation against a number of chemical and other companies in Alabama several years ago when it came across some interesting data.

Vehicle Fuels

Three Bosch Managers Targeted as German Diesel Probe Expands

A German probe into whether Robert Bosch GmbH helped Volkswagen AG cheat on emissions tests intensified as Stuttgart prosecutors said they were focusing on three managers at the car-parts maker.

Water Infrastructure

Advocates Sue to Block California Water Project

Federal scientists should redo biological studies for a proposed California water infrastructure project, fishing and environmental groups said June 29.

Water Pollution

EPA Too Lax on NYC Water Pollution Plan: Green Groups

The EPA was too lax in approving a plan to clean up sewage and other pollution fouling the rivers and other waterways in and around New York City, a coalition of environmental groups said in a lawsuit.

Practitioner Insights

Hazardous Waste

Practitioner Insights: Hazardous Waste Reforms Not in Trump's Sights

During the past few months, federal environmental rules that the Trump administration wants to reconsider for possible rescission have made headlines. The March 28 executive order directing the dismantling of the many-faceted Obama administration climate change legacy is the most noteworthy example. There have been many others, including stream protection rules, methane control at new oil and gas facilities, etc.

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Daily Environment Report for EPA

To: Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
From: POLITICO Pro
Sent: Wed 7/12/2017 11:29:00 PM
Subject: House approves contentious California drought measure

By Annie Snider

07/12/2017 07:25 PM EDT

The House approved a controversial California drought measure that is aimed at shipping more water to the state's powerhouse agricultural region, although the bill faces long odds in the upper chamber.

House lawmakers voted 230-190 in favor of H.R. 23 (115) from Rep. David Valadao (R-Calif.), mostly along party lines. The measure seeks to ensure reliable water supplies for the massive agriculture industry in California's Central Valley by loosening environmental protections in the fragile Sacramento-San Joaquin Bay-Delta and greasing the skids for new dam construction across the West.

"Droughts are nature's fault; water shortages are our fault. They're a choice we made a generation ago when we chose to neglect our infrastructure and mismanage our water," said Rep. Tom McClintock (R-Calif.), one of the state's staunchest water warriors.

The H.R. 23 vote follows a tough fight last year over the bipartisan drought bill Congress passed into law that altered endangered species protections and created new programs aimed at ensuring long-term water sustainability in the state. Many of the new bill's provisions were included in previous House bills but were dropped during negotiations on last year's measure.

Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.), who led negotiations for the upper chamber on last year's bipartisan measure, has fiercely opposed the new drought measure, as has the state's other Democratic senator, Kamala Harris, as well as Gov. Jerry Brown (D). They contend it would override state laws, violate the Endangered Species Act and choose winners and losers within California.

WHAT'S NEXT: The measure moves to the Senate, where it faces stiff opposition.

To view online:
https://www.politicopro.com/agriculture/whiteboard/2017/07/house-approves-contentious-california-drought-measure-090378

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This email was sent to jackson.ryan@epa.gov by: POLITICO, LLC 1000 Wilson Blvd. Arlington, VA, 22209, USA

To: Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
From: POLITICO Pro Energy Whiteboard
Sent: Wed 9/13/2017 7:37:54 PM
Subject: EPA delays parts of power plant toxic discharge rule

By Alex Guillén

09/13/2017 03:35 PM EDT

EPA has finalized a rule delaying by two years the key compliance dates for a 2015 regulation limiting toxic discharges in power plants' wastewater streams while it reconsiders those standards.

The delay provides "relief from the existing regulatory deadlines while the agency revisits some of the rule's requirements," EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt said in a statement.

Following industry requests, EPA specifically is delaying deadlines related to limits on discharges of flue gas desulfurization wastewater and bottom ash transport water, two waste streams associated with burning coal for electricity. EPA estimates the two-year delay of those requirements will provide annualized utility cost savings between $27.5 million and $36.8 million.

The agency said it will not revisit new standards for other types of waste streams — including fly ash transport water, flue gas mercury control wastewater and gasification wastewater — and will leave deadlines associated with those streams in place.

The delay will take effect two weeks after it is published in the Federal Register, and is open to court challenges.

The Obama administration said the overall rule, known as effluent limitations guidelines or ELGs, ultimately would curb 1.4 billion pounds of aluminum, lead, mercury, arsenic and other toxic metals from entering waterways via discharge streams each year.

To view online:
https://www.politicopro.com/energy/whiteboard/2017/09/epa-delays-parts-of-power-plant-toxic-discharge-rule-092870

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To: Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
From: POLITICO Pro Energy
Sent: Thur 11/9/2017 10:43:12 AM
Subject: Morning Energy, presented by ExxonMobil: Senate expected to send Pruitt an air chief today — Senate Energy slots in Nov. 15 ANWR markup as text released — East vs. West coal battle heats up — New hurdle for nuclear waste bill

By Anthony Adragna | 11/09/2017 05:41 AM EDT

With help from Emily Holden and Eric Wolff

HELP'S ON THE WAY: The Senate is expected to confirm William Wehrum today at 11:30 a.m. to run EPA's air office, sending Administrator Scott Pruitt a key, if controversial, lieutenant as he embarks on a sweeping agenda to roll back a host of Obama-era air regulations. Barring any huge surprises (the cloture vote was along party-lines), Wehrum is expected to receive unanimous Republican backing and universal Democratic opposition.

Al Franken made a candid hot mic comment during the cloture vote. Watch here.

Pressure to testify ramps up: With help on the way to the agency, look for Congress to further lean on Pruitt to return for oversight hearings. House Energy and Commerce Environment Subcommittee Chairman John Shimkus told reporters he's personally told Pruitt within the past two weeks that he needs to appear before the committee. "I know that I said, 'You know you're eventually going to have to come before the committee, and the sooner you do it the better,'" he said. "He was quiet." House Science Chairman Lamar Smith said in a letter his staff was working on finding "a mutually convenient time" for Pruitt to come. From ME's perspective, Hill Republicans may have to do more than nicely ask for Pruitt to appear.

Speaking of Pruitt, a tipster tells ME they spotted the administrator in first class on a flight from D.C. to Detroit on Wednesday morning. An agency spokeswoman wouldn't say where he was going or what he was doing once he arrived.

Hey, EPA: That's not how this works. Pruitt is a Cabinet official, not a private citizen. His responsibilities include testifying before Congress regularly, and the public has a right to know where he is on a given day. Unlike Pruitt, other Cabinet officials — including Secretary of State Rex Tillerson, Defense Secretary Jim Mattis, Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue, Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross (even President Donald Trump himself) — regularly provide their daily schedules in advance.

So where is he today? Pruitt's slated to meet with the American Chemistry Council's board of directors for 2-1/2 hours on Kiawah Island, S.C.

IF IT'S THURSDAY, ME'S HERE FOR YOU! I'm your host Anthony Adragna, and EPA deputy nominee Andrew Wheeler was first (on the morning of his confirmation hearing!) to identify that Sen. Shelley Moore Capito's father, Arch Moore, served three terms as West Virginia governor before legal troubles ended his career. For today: Which former lawmaker left the House to become a public works commissioner? Send your tips, energy gossip and comments

to aadragna@politico.com, or follow us on Twitter @AnthonyAdragna, @Morning_Energy and @POLITICOPro.

ANWR LEGISLATION RELEASED: Senate Energy Chairman Lisa Murkowski released a four-page reconciliation package late Wednesday that would open Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in Alaska to oil and gas drilling. According to the CBO, the measure would net $1.092 billion over the 10-year budget while limiting development to 2,000 acres of federal land. The release allows the committee to move on to a markup on Nov. 15. Efforts to open ANWR to drilling are staunchly opposed by Democrats, including Ranking Member Maria Cantwell, and environmental advocates. Remember instructions in the budget resolution, H. Con. Res. 71, require Murkowski's committee to raise $1 billion in revenue over the next decade.

Hot docs: Text of the chairman's mark here. Summary of the mark here. Map of the area under consideration here.

NEW EAST V. WEST BEEF: Energy Secretary Rick Perry's grid resiliency push to boost the coal and nuclear sectors is casting a brighter light on the ever-expanding divide between the coal industry's Appalachian mines and Wyoming's Powder River Basin, Pro's Alex Guillén reports. And though the Trump administration has paid close attention to boosting the fortunes of Appalachia in its early months, experts say the industry's future appears brighter out West. "The industry recognizes it's just a fact of geology and Mother Nature and economics," said analyst Michael Dudas of Vertical Research Partners. "Over the past decades, the mix has certainly gone away from Appalachia towards the Powder River Basin."

Eastern and Western coal states have been on different trajectories for decades, with 56 percent of U.S. coal production in 2015 coming from the Western region and just 25 percent from Appalachia. Western coal is easier to access and reserves are so abundant that companies were able to absorb an Obama-era moratorium on new leases largely unfazed. "In the grand scheme of things, economically, we're the better bet for a utility," Travis Deti, executive director of the Wyoming Mining Association, said.

But the nostalgia factor: Appalachia is the nation's sole producer of metallurgical coal, high-grade fuel used to make steel and other metals and is better-positioned to export its coal. But beyond those factors, it continues to occupy an overwhelming cultural and political presence in parts of the country. "Our advantage is we have the best coal miners in the world and we got probably some of the best coal in the world right here. The Lord blessed us in that standpoint," Bill Raney, president of the West Virginia Coal Association, said.

NUCLEAR WASTE BILL HITS NEW HURDLE: A dispute between Shimkus and House Appropriators over how money from the Nuclear Waste Fund is spent must be resolved before a bipartisan nuclear waste bill can hit the floor, Pro's Darius Dixon reports. At issue is mandatory spending in the Shimkus bill that would go to operating costs related to Yucca Mountain and additional payments through a "benefits agreement" with the state of Nevada. Current law has Congress dole out monies from the fund during the annual appropriations process and lawmakers on that panel don't want to cede that power. "My frustration is that we are serious but the appropriators, right now, are still wedded to a year-to-year process," Shimkus told Darius.

It's a pile-on! Even if the bill gets out of the House, there's been little appetite to move on the issue in the Senate where leadership doesn't want to put vulnerable Nevada Republican Sen. Dean Heller in a tough spot. "Senate Republicans have made it clear they don't want to move forward on Yucca Mountain because it could hurt Sen. Heller," a senior Senate aide said. Heller said in an interview — with a smile — he'd been pushing Majority Leader Mitch McConnell to keep Yucca funding out of the next spending package. "I think we'll get there," he added.

** **Presented by ExxonMobil:** We're collaborating with FuelCell Energy on a novel idea to use fuel cells to capture carbon at natural gas power plants, and in the process reduce emissions and increase electrical output. This technology could be a game changer in addressing the world's growing need for energy, while also reducing the impact on the environment. Learn more. **

HOW ABOUT A MEETING? The Senate's number two Democrat has no plans to lift his hold on multiple Interior nominees until Secretary Ryan Zinke meets with his office about his review of national monument designations, your ME host reports. "A meeting, how about that for a radical idea?" Sen. Dick Durbin told ME when asked what it would take to lift the holds. "We asked the secretary to meet with us and he won't do it." Zinke demanded the senators "lift the random and senseless holds" in a tweet late Wednesday.

ROUGH WATERS FOR CORPS NOMINEE? Rickey Dale "R.D." James, Trump's pick to run the Army Corps of Engineers, is likely to face scrutiny today before the Armed Services Committee over what critics say are his conflicts of interests, Pro's Alex Guillén reports . His thousands of acres of valuable Missouri farmland lie within the New Madrid floodway, a relief-valve channel that can be used to divert floodwaters from the Mississippi and Ohio rivers. James, a long-time member of the powerful Mississippi River Commission, has admitted to being conflicted about flooding the area because of his ties there. "I could not displace from my mind what the decision would mean to my friends and neighbors," James told the Defense Media Network in 2012.

His defenders include both of Mississippi's senators — Thad Cochran and Roger Wicker — and major waterways groups. Once he clears the Armed Services Committee, he will go through another hearing and vote before the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee. The session gavels in at 10 a.m. in Dirksen G-50.

OLD KING COAL: Michael Bloomberg and Bloomberg Philanthropies today will announce a $50 million cash infusion to launch the Europe Beyond Coal campaign to reduce the continent's dependence on coal energy. Done in partnership with the European Climate Foundation and a sister campaign on ongoing U.S efforts, both groups plan a Nov. 11 event on the sidelines of the UN's COP23 to discuss their new push.

Taking stock: As the climate confab in Bonn continues, a new analysis from Data-Driven Yale finds nearly 15,000 subnational and non-state actors have set close to 100,000 goals to curb climate change. The researchers synthesized information from 17 platforms and organizations, finding that more than 7,000 cities representing 17 percent of the world's population have climate targets. Most (5,831) are in Europe, and 554 are in North America. The study identified

climate commitments from about 6,225 companies and investors with $36.5 trillion in revenue, and from 34 of the world's 57 largest banks, as well as 700 U.S. colleges and universities

HYDROPOWERING THROUGH: The House voted 257 to 166 on Wednesday to approve the Hydropower Policy Modernization Act H.R. 3043 (115) revamping the permitting process for hydropower projects. "This bill won't change outcomes or environmental standards. Instead, it will speed up the relicensing process and save time and money," bill sponsor Rep. Cathy McMorris Rodgers said in a statement. Twenty-six Democrats backed the measure, while three Republicans voted against it.

BISHOP'S 'DISAPPOINTED' BY PREPA'S ABSENCE: House Natural Resources Chairman Rob Bishop told ME he's "disappointed" but not surprised the head of Puerto Rico's utility backed out of a congressional hearing earlier this week. "They would have had to face all the questions about Whitefish, so I kind of understand why they didn't necessarily want to be there," he said. "If we're trying to solve the problem, spending a lot of time on Whitefish would be fun but not necessarily essential with moving forward."

FIGURE IT OUT: Democratic Sens. Sheldon Whitehouse and Michael Bennet asked FERC in a Wednesday letter to reverse course and include the social cost of carbon as part of its review of pipeline projects. They included a point-by-point rebuttal of a recent draft FERC analysis in which the commission said it would not include the figure estimating societal costs of carbon pollution in its analyses.

ATLANTIC SUNRISE CAN PROCEED: A three-judge panel of the D.C. Circuit denied a request Wednesday from community and environmental groups to halt construction of the Atlantic Sunrise natural gas pipeline while a broader challenge to FERC approval of the project proceeds, Pro's Darius Dixon reports. "Petitioners have not satisfied the stringent requirements for a stay pending court review," the court said in its order.

MAIL CALL! THANKS, MR. PRESIDENT! A group of advanced biofuel producers, including ethanol giants Archer Daniels Midland and POET, sent a letter to Trump thanking him for past support of the ethanol industry and asking him to make sure advanced biofuel volumes are raised from proposed levels. "Mr. President, we very much appreciate your ongoing commitment to the biofuels industry and the Americans who work every day to produce biofuels and other bio-based, agricultural products," the letter says.

Hey, House, lay off our wind tax credit: Rhode Island Gov. Gina Raimando and South Dakota Gov. Dennis Daugaard are asking House tax writers to lay off changes to the wind tax credit. In a letter to Ways & Means Chairman Kevin Brady and ranking member Richard Neal , the pair, who are also the current and past chairmen of the Governors Wind and Solar Energy Coalition, say the bill should drop its provisions that change how wind projects qualify and that eliminate an inflation adjustment. Fifteen House members, led by Rep. David Young, made a similar plea in their own letter Wednesday.

Not sold: A group of 17 environmental and public health groups sent a letter to the House on Wednesday strongly opposing the chamber's tax package, H.R. 1 (115) . "The plan puts at risk

our clean energy future by preserving tax breaks for dirty energy sources while slashing them for cleaner forms of energy," the letter, signed by groups like the Center for Biological Diversity, Sierra Club and Oil Change International, says. "And if the tax plan itself weren't harmful enough, it is also being packaged in the Senate with unrelated, controversial legislation that hands over the pristine and sacred Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to exploitation by Big Oil."

Energy research can be fun(ded)! A group of business leaders sent a letter to top House and Senate appropriators urging robust energy research funding. "Ensuring America stays at the forefront of global energy technology research is both an economic and security imperative," the letter, signed by leaders including Southern Co's Tom Fanning, ClearPath's Jay Faison and the U.S. Chamber's Thomas Donohue, says.

GOOD YEAR FOR PARKS: The Trust for Public Land ran the numbers and voters around the country approved $1.5 billion in local and state ballot measures for parks and conservation. Twenty-six of the 30 local park and open space measures passed. "At a time when Americans seem to be increasingly divided, one thing we all agree on is that we love our parks, whatever our political party," Will Rogers, the group's president, said in a statement.

TAKE A GLANCE! Energy In Depth, a research program of the Independent Petroleum Association of America, is launching a website today pushing back on claims made by the #ExxonKnew campaign.

QUICK HITS

— How Coal Giant Peabody's Ideas Ended Up in Trump's Coal Study. Bloomberg.

— Coal-fired plant shifted $1bn offshore while pocketing $117m from Australian taxpayers. The Guardian.

— End may be nearing for Diablo Canyon nuclear plant. San Franciso Chronicle.

— Shell Enchilada oil platform in Gulf of Mexico shut after fire. Reuters.

— Homeland nominee questions human role in climate change. AP.

— California Gov. Jerry Brown delivers a blunt climate change message in Germany. Los Angeles Times.

HAPPENING TODAY

9:15 a.m. — "Heavy-Duty Innovation: Energy, Automation & Tech in the Trucking Sector," Securing America's Future Energy, The Loft at 600 F, 600 F Street Northwest

9:30 a.m. — ITC hearing on countervailing and anti-dumping duty investigations into Argentine and Indonesian biodiesel, 500 E St., SW

9:30 a.m. — "What Lessons Can Be Learned from Power Africa?" Center for Strategic and International Studies, 1616 Rhode Island Avenue, NW

10:00 a.m. — Various nomination hearing, including head of the Army Corps of Engineers, Senate Armed Services Committee, Dirksen G-50

10:15 a.m. — "H.R.___, Farm Regulatory Certainty Act," House Energy and Commerce Environment Subcommittee, Rayburn 2322

11:00 a.m. — FERC Chairman Neil Chatterjee holds discussion with Platts reporters and other credentialed press, S&P Global Platts Washington office, 1200 G St., NW, Ste. 1000

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To view online:
https://www.politicopro.com/tipsheets/morning-energy/2017/11/senate-expected-to-send-pruitt-an-air-chief-today-025463

Stories from POLITICO Pro

Wehrum clears cloture hurdle Back

By Anthony Adragna | 11/08/2017 05:30 PM EDT

The Senate invoked cloture on William Wehrum's nomination to run EPA's air office, leaving just one final vote until Administrator Scott Pruitt lands his first lieutenant.

The vote was 49-46 along party lines.

It's been an arduous process for Wehrum, a veteran of the George W. Bush Office of Air and Radiation in EPA. A vote in the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee was briefly delayed due to Republican concerns over the agency's plans for the Renewable Fuel Standard.

Democrats and environmental groups oppose his selection. During his confirmation hearing, Wehrum said the degree that human activity drives climate change remains an "open question," contradicting mainstream science.

WHAT'S NEXT: A final vote on the nomination is likely sometime on Thursday.

To view online click here.

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Nuclear waste bill clears House committee with bipartisan backing Back

By Darius Dixon | 06/28/2017 12:05 PM EDT

The House Energy and Commerce Committee approved nuclear waste reform legislation this morning on a bipartisan 49-4 vote, facing only a handful of Democratic holdouts.

The bill, H.R. 3053, sponsored by E&C Environment Subcommittee Chairman John Shimkus, would make the first changes in 30 years to the Nuclear Waste Policy Act, which names Yucca Mountain as the nation's sole waste repository.

The committee agreed to a compromise manager's amendment that would let DOE open one interim storage facility while regulators continue to work on a permanent repository. That eliminated most of the Democratic objections to a draft version of the bill that would have barred such work until the Nuclear Regulatory Commission issued a decision on Yucca Mountain.

Yucca Mountain supporters have been concerned that a storage site would take the pressure off of approving a repository. Meanwhile, lawmakers have been anxious to move the waste building up at defunct nuclear power plants in their states.

Another bipartisan amendment, also approved on a voice vote, removed the bill's original language impacting Nevada's water rights and air permitting. The amendment would also increase Yucca's capacity from 70,000 metric tons to 110,000 metric tons.

The bill also authorizes payments to host states and limits work on any defense waste-only repository.

New Jersey Rep. Frank Pallone, the top Democrat on E&C, said that the bill was "a delicate and difficult negotiation, but I believe we have arrived at a very good compromise."

WHAT'S NEXT: Shimkus has said he expects the bill to get a vote by the full House before the August recess, but GOP leaders have not yet scheduled floor time for the bill.

To view online click here.

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Shimkus: Nuclear waste bill mired in dispute with appropriators Back

By Darius Dixon | 11/08/2017 06:10 PM EDT

Rep. John Shimkus is in the midst of a face-off with members of the powerful Appropriations Committee over language in his bipartisan nuclear waste bill that would limit their say in how money from the Nuclear Waste Fund is spent.

The Illinois Republican's bill, H.R. 3053, would authorize the Energy Department to open one interim storage facility while regulators review plans to permanently house it at Yucca Mountain, which would be expanded in size. But the measure also sets aside mandatory spending from the fund, an account amassed from fees on nuclear-generated electricity that was valued at $46 billion last year.

Mandatory spending in the Shimkus bill includes operating costs related to Yucca Mountain and additional payments through a "benefits agreement" with the state of Nevada. Under existing law, Congress spends money from the fund through annual appropriations bills, a process that allowed Democrats to block required regulatory reviews of Yucca Mountain for the last several years.

"We want to be able to send a signal to not just DOE to move forward and that there's going to be some consistent funding, but we also want to send a signal to the state of Nevada that if there's going to be an agreement on benefits that that's not at the whim of a year-to-year process," Shimkus told POLITICO on Wednesday. "My frustration is that we are serious but the appropriators, right now, are still wedded to a year-to-year process."

GOP leadership "wants us to resolve this conflict" before bringing the bill to the floor, Shimkus said.

Given the fund's $46 billion value last year, Shimkus' bill would permit DOE to spend at least $500 million annually for the construction and operation of a Yucca Mountain facility as well as payments to Nevada for hosting "without further appropriation."

Shimkus said the negotiations with appropriators over his bill are separate from the omnibus spending bill lawmakers need to address next month, making it difficult to estimate when the conflict might be resolved.

The showdown is only the latest hurdle for long-suffering nuclear advocates who want the U.S. to establish a permanent waste repository.

Even if Shimkus and the appropriators resolve their differences on his bill, the Senate has shown little appetite this year for addressing a permanent nuclear waste repository, despite the retirement of former Democratic Leader Harry Reid, Yucca Mountain's No. 1 foe. Nevada Republican Dean Heller , who faces one of the toughest reelection fights next year, has become the biggest roadblock in the upper chamber. The House included $150 million to restart Yucca in its fiscal 2018 spending bill for the Energy Department and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, but the Senate did not follow suit and seems unlikely to go along with including the funds in an omnibus.

"Senate Republicans have made it clear they don't want to move forward on Yucca Mountain

because it could hurt Sen. Heller," a senior Senate aide said.

Sen. Lamar Alexander (R-Tenn.), who chairs the appropriations subcommittee with jurisdiction over Yucca, acknowledged in a recent interview that Heller is "a well-respected, influential U.S. senator, so his views will be paid attention to by lots of senators," but that it was too soon to tell how a final deal would shake out.

Heller himself wouldn't say whether he'd secured any assurances from Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell to keep new Yucca funds out of the next spending law. "I keep urging it," he said with a smile. "I think we'll get there."

The Senate is "not passionate about this," said Tim Peckinpaugh, a partner at K&L Gates, a law firm that was involved with the lawsuits that sued to force the federal government to continue work on the Yucca Mountain application. "I don't see a John Shimkus in the Senate," he said. "He has passion and incredible persistence on this issue. But I do see broad-based support. I'm convinced that if there's an up-or-down vote in the Senate, it would pass by big numbers — more than 60 — and I think both sides know that, quite frankly."

Simply looking at the map of where the commercial and defense nuclear waste destined for a site like Yucca Mountain currently sits, logical supporters of the new funding would include members of the Senate Democratic leadership like Sens. Chuck Schumer of New York, Dick Durbin of Illinois and Patty Murray of Washington.

But Sen. Catherine Cortez Masto (D-Nev.), like Heller, opposes Yucca in line with the rest of her state's congressional delegation. And she's convinced that Schumer, the Senate minority leader, won't support new cash for the project next month.

"I don't anticipate that there's going to be any funding," she said. "I've talked to my leadership about it. ... Sen. Schumer is opposed to it."

To view online click here.

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Durbin freezes Interior nominees over monument review Back

By Anthony Adragna | 11/08/2017 04:17 PM EDT

Senate Minority Whip Dick Durbin said in a letter today that he's placed a hold on multiple Interior nominees until the agency responds to an earlier October letter concerning his review of national monument designations.

"I remain hopeful that a meeting can be scheduled in the near future to discuss these important issues," he wrote to Micah Chambers, acting director of Interior's Office of Congressional and Legislative Affairs. "Please let the Secretary know that while my colleagues and I await his

scheduling decision, my holds on Department of Interior nominees will continue."

In that previously unreleased October letter, Sens. Tom Udall, Martin Heinrich and Jeff Merkley and Durbin asked Zinke to meet with Durbin's office to explain his recommendations to shrink several national monuments created under the Antiquities Act by prior administrations.

They also requested maps, documentation and justifications for those recommendations and called for his report to be released publicly.

Zinke sent a letter earlier today to Senate leadership demanding "immediate action" on multiple Interior nominations that have been held up for months.

WHAT'S NEXT: Durbin said his hold on the nominees will continue until Zinke agrees to a meeting.

To view online click here.

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Army Corps nominee to face scrutiny over Mississippi River project Back

By Alex Guillén | 11/08/2017 06:36 PM EDT

President Donald Trump's pick to run the Army Corps of Engineers, Rickey Dale "R.D." James, is likely to draw some scrutiny on Thursday over what critics complain is his conflict of interest over a controversial Mississippi River flood control project.

James, a civil engineer by training, was recommended to Trump by Sens. Thad Cochran (R-Miss.) and Roger Wicker (R-Miss.) to head the agency with a $6 billion budget that takes the lead on major water infrastructure projects across the U.S.

The pair were impressed by James' 36 years sitting on the Mississippi River Commission, which along with the Corps oversees water projects on the nation's biggest river and its many tributaries.

"He has been a friend to Mississippi in terms of supporting projects and policies to improve navigation and flood control in our state," Cochran said in a statement.

Cochran chairs the Appropriations Committee and thus exercises great power over the Army Corps' budget, while Wicker is a senior member of the Armed Services Committee, which will host Thursday's hearing.

Major waterway groups are pleased as well.

"Given his tenure on the Mississippi River Commission, he really has an in-depth knowledge of

the Corps of Engineers and the importance of investing in infrastructure," said Amy Larson of the National Waterways Conference.

But James' critics say he used his position on the powerful commission to protect his own interests, which include thousands of acres of valuable Missouri farmland sitting inside a controversial floodway.

"He has a long history of advocating for environmentally devastating and costly projects that benefit a handful of special interests," said Melissa Samet, a water attorney at the National Wildlife Federation. "And a lot of that advocacy has been carried out despite what we see as a clear conflict of interest with his position at the Mississippi River Commission."

James and his wife own New Madrid farmland worth between $2.5 million and $11 million, according to his financial disclosure. Some of that land is rented out via a family limited partnership. If confirmed to the Army Corps post, James has promised to hand over control of the farmland and a company he owns to his son, although he will still receive crop rent income.

James' farmland lies squarely within the New Madrid floodway, a relief-valve channel that can be used to divert floodwaters from the Mississippi and Ohio rivers. But using the floodway — as has happened twice in the last 90 years — means damaging James' farm and the land of other politically powerful landholders.

Following the most recent flooding in 2011, the Army Corps delayed blowing out a levee that would activate the floodway, and the state even sued in an attempt to stop it, despite rising flood levels in Cairo, Ill., up the Mississippi River. James, who consulted on the decision, said he had been conflicted about flooding the Missouri farmland because of his family's holdings.

"My family's land lies within the floodway, and I could not displace from my mind what the decision would mean to my friends and neighbors," James told the Defense Media Network in 2012.

The political battle over whether to replace that levee, which would protect the land owned by James and other farm owners but leave small Illinois towns at risk of flooding in the future, continues to this day.

James will likely also find himself at the center of budget battles between the White House, which has proposed a steep 16 percent spending cut in the Army Corps' budget to $5 billion, and lawmakers who are desperate to fund more major civil works projects in their states.

The Senate budget package calls for a small boost to $6.2 billion, slightly above the $6.16 billion sought by the House. It is unclear whether those increases will survive whatever spending deal Congress eventually strikes, but the Army Corps' funding is unlikely to decrease from fiscal 2017.

Larson said James' personal experiences with Corps projects means he is well placed to pressure the White House to maintain or increase project funding. "Given his position, he understands that

we need additional funds for investments in the nation's infrastructure," she said.

And James will play a major role in helping EPA rewrite its Waters of the U.S. regulation, which will determine the waterways that fall under federal jurisdiction. EPA has indicated it will not propose a new version of the Obama rule until early next year.

Once James clears the Armed Services Committee, he will go through another hearing and vote before the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee.

In addition to the farm, James manages a Missouri cotton gin and grain elevator company. His term on the Mississippi River Commission is the group's second-longest tenure, and he was most recently reappointed by former President Barack Obama in January.

James has given more than $21,000 to federal candidates since the 1990s, according to FEC records. Most of that money went to Missouri lawmakers, including former Sen. Jim Talent and former Rep. Jo Ann Emerson, both Republicans, and Rep. Marion Berry, a Democrat from Arkansas' 1st Congressional District. The only presidential campaign he gave to was Rudy Giuliani in 2007.

James and his wife report owning stocks in the utilities Dominion Energy and American Electric Power, natural gas company Spectra Energy and oil giant Shell.

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Back

Appeals court denies stay on Atlantic Sunrise pipeline construction Back

By Darius Dixon | 11/08/2017 06:22 PM EDT

A federal court panel today denied a request from community and environmental groups to halt construction of the Atlantic Sunrise natural gas pipeline while those organizations challenge FERC's approval of the project.

"Petitioners have not satisfied the stringent requirements for a stay pending court review," a three-judge panel of the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals said in the order.

The panel instituted an administrative stay on Monday while it weighed whether to grant the full stay, which would've been in place until the lawsuit, *Allegheny Defense Project, et al v. FERC*, 17-1098, was resolved.

WHAT'S NEXT: The court still needs to establish the briefing schedule for the lawsuit and has not decided when or whether to hold oral arguments.

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To: Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
From: POLITICO Pro Energy
Sent: Wed 6/28/2017 9:44:17 AM
Subject: Morning Energy, presented by Exelon: Tribes gather at White House — House looks at DOE budget — Yucca and more on the move at E&C

By Ben Lefebvre | 06/28/2017 05:42 AM EDT

With help from Nick Juliano, Alex Guillen and Eric Wolff

TRIBAL ENERGY FRONT AND CENTER: The White House is inviting state officials and Native American tribal leaders to discuss local energy issues with Trump administration officials in today's chapter of Energy Week. ME expects part of the topic du jour will be promoting energy development on tribal land, something Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke has floated in budget hearing talks and actually worked on during his time in Congress.

At least one of the attendees — Navajo Nation Speaker Lorenzo Bates — could bring up a topic close to Trump's heart. The tribe is working to save a coal-fired power plant and associated mine that employ hundreds of its members. The Navajo Nation voted Tuesday to extend a lease for two more years on the 2.25-gigawatt Navajo Generating Station, one of the largest coal-fired plants in the country. The Navajo lease the station from Arizona utility Salt River Project, and Interior owns about a quarter of the plant.

Despite the lease renewal meaning the plant will continue burning coal through 2019, its long-term future is still in doubt. The plant's coal-fired electricity is too expensive compared to gas, no one wants to buy the site to update it, and it will need more than $100 million in maintenance done by the end of this decade. We'll see what comes out of today's meeting.

Guest list: Expected attendees include three Republican governors — Iowa's Kim Reynolds, Nebraska's Pete Ricketts, Maine's Paul LePage — and Alaska Gov. Bill Walker, an independent, among other state officials. Other tribes anticipated to send a representative include the Crow Nation Reservation in Montana, Chickasaw Nation in Oklahoma and Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa in Michigan, among others.

Otherwise, we're halfway done with Energy Week. Things seem to be par for the course so far with the White House's theme-weeks. DOE Secretary Rick Perry tried bravely to keep on topic during a White House briefing while TV screens flashed the latest news on the Senate bill, which seems headed to the ER, POLITICO's Andrew Restuccia reports. "Perry's remarks made for a bizarre split-screen moment, underscoring the disconnect between the policy themes selected by the White House - this week's focus is energy - and the news cycle, which this week has been dominated by the health care bill," Andrew writes.

Welcome to Morning Energy! I'm your host Ben Lefebvre, filling in for Anthony Adragna. Anthony will be back tomorrow, newly married and relatively safe from a life of sin. Send your tips, confetti and uneaten wedding cake to aadragna@politico.com, or follow us on Twitter @bjlefebvre, @aadragna, @Morning_Energy and @POLITICOPro.

FIRST UP ON THE CHOPPING BLOCK: House Republicans are willing to go along with at least some of Trump's proposals to eliminate Energy Department programs designed to foster new clean energy technologies. And their energy and water spending bill begins its journey through the legislative process today with a House Appropriations subcommittee markup. The bill appropriators released Monday would eliminate the Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy, prevent DOE from issuing new clean energy loan guarantees and cut nearly $1 billion from the Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Office, effectively halving its budget, Pro's Nick Juliano reports. What's not having such a hard time is the DOE's Office of Fossil Energy, which will get a mere $33 million trim for a total budget of about $635 million. Nuclear programs would see $969 million, a $48 million reduction.

If you go: The fun starts at 11 a.m. at Rayburn 2362-B.

More approps fun: Over on the other side of Capitol Hill, the Senate Appropriations energy and water subcommittee will hear from representatives of the Army Corps of Engineers and Bureau of Reclamation about their budget request. That hearing starts at 2:30 p.m. in Dirksen 138.

** **A message from Exelon:** Innovation always begins with the spirit of discovery—the search for new ideas and answers to our biggest questions. As America's largest clean energy provider, what happens when 34,000 Exelon engineers, analysts, and innovators put their heads together to tackle the energy industry's biggest challenges? Find out here: http://bit.ly/2szvZN4 **

OZONE, YUCCA, BROWNFIELDS AND MORE!: The Energy and Commerce Committee meets this morning to vote on eight bills, including nuclear waste legislation aimed at advancing Yucca Mountain, a reauthorization of EPA's brownfields program and a bill to delay tighter ozone standards. The markup also will include bills that would ease hydropower permitting, make it easier to build energy infrastructure across the border and promote new natural gas pipelines.

If you go: The markup begins at 10 a.m. in 2123 Rayburn. A full agenda is here.

DOJ ENVIRO NOMINEE IN HOT SEAT: Jeffrey Bossert Clark, the president's pick to run the Justice Department's Environment and Natural Resources Division, is scheduled to testify at a Senate Judiciary Committee hearing today, alongside several other nominees. Nominated earlier this month, Pros will recall that Clark has been an attorney at Kirkland & Ellis for years, and previously served as ENRD's deputy under George W. Bush. Clark is also connected to the Clean Power Plan lawsuits, where he represented a consumer group that filed a "friend of the court" brief urging the court to strike down the rule. That could require him to recuse himself from litigation over the rule. The Judiciary Committee hearing starts at 9:30 a.m. in Dirksen 226.

NOMINATIONS ON HOLD AT EPW: The Environment and Public Works Committee has postponed a vote that had been planned for this morning on Nuclear Regulatory Commission nominees Annie Caputo and David Wright and Susan Parker Bodine, who has been nominated as assistant administrator of the EPA's office of enforcement and compliance assurance. The committee has not said when it will reschedule the business meeting.

GROUP SUES FOR ICAHN, PRUITT DOCS: American Oversight, a liberal-leaning policy group said it is suing the EPA to turn over emails between Administrator Scott Pruitt and billionaire Carl Icahn, or representatives of the refinery he owns, Pro's Eric Wolff reports. The group says in its complaint that it has submitted two requests under the Freedom of Information Act, but it has not yet received any materials. The group wants Pruitt's calendars, phone logs and emails to examine whether he was in communication with Icahn or other officials. As Icahn runs CVR Energy, that could put him in conflict of interest depending on what comes up in Pruitt's records.

EPA STAFF FOUND IN MEMO: An internal EPA memo sent Tuesday listing political appointees at the agency includes at least eight previously unknown names, Pro's Alex Guillen reports. It also reveals one possible departure: Missing from the list is J.P. Freire, formerly the associate administrator for public affairs. That spot is filled in an acting capacity by Liz Bowman, formerly Freire's deputy, according to the memo. Neither Freire nor EPA immediately responded to questions about his apparent departure. Of the eight new names, the highest-ranking is Erik Baptist, the senior deputy general counsel. Baptist was an attorney with the American Petroleum Institute since 2011. Before that, he was an attorney for FERC for two years and an associate at the law firm McDermott Will & Emery, according to his LinkedIn profile.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS: The 10th Circuit has scheduled oral arguments over Interior's Obama-era fracking rule for July 27 in Denver. The appeal deals solely with whether Interior has the authority to regulate fracking on federal lands. A lower court judge previously struck down Interior's fracking rule as unconstitutional, saying it was a power delegated explicitly to the states. The Trump administration tried (apparently unsuccessfully) to pause the case while it rethinks and presumably repeals the rule. It's not clear what DOJ lawyers will do on July 27, but environmental groups have signed up to defend the rule at least. A loss for the Trump administration here could eventually lead to some type of federal control over fracking on public lands.

ZINKE A COLD ONE IN MONTANA: It turns out Zinke didn't have any big announcements for the Western Governors' Association annual meeting Tuesday in Montana, but an Interior source assures ME something is coming later this week. Zinke may have been upstaged by beverage makers, however. The official WGA account dedicated six Tweets to Zinke's presentation, compared to a whopping 14 Tweets dedicated to a round table on craft brewers that followed him.

YOU WOULDN'T LIKE HIM WHEN HE'S ANGRY: Newly elected Montana Rep. Greg Gianforte will join the House Natural Resources Committee, Chairman Rob Bishop announced Monday. He will sit on its subcommittees on federal lands and water, power and oceans. Gianforte won Zinke's old seat earlier this year, after he infamously assaulted a reporter just before the special election.

DEMS DEMAND DOE FIRING: Sens. Mazie Hirono and Maria Cantwell are calling on DOE to fire a Trump appointee over racially insensitive remarks on social media. William Bradford, who was recently appointed to lead the DOE's Office of Indian Energy, referred to President

Obama a "Kenyan creampuff," and called the internment of Japanese-Americans during World War II "necessary" in Twitter posts he has since deleted, according to press reports. In a letter to Perry the senators call it "disturbing" how someone with Bradford's history of offensive comments got through the administration's vetting process and ask DOE to explain what role it played in the hiring.

THE 47 PERCENT AT THE BLM: Oil and gas companies are not operating on nearly half of the onshore land they've leased from the federal government, The Wilderness Society points out via BLM data . How much the drilling should be done on public land is an argument almost as old as Spindle Top. But what's new is how low operating levels have fallen. Drills working on only 53 percent of leased land is the lowest level since BLM started keeping records in 1998, according to some ME napkin-math. Another sign of the times: Drillers only spudded 847 new wells last year, half of what they drilled the year before and a third of what they did in 2014, BLM data shows. "There is no reason oil, gas, and coal companies need more public land," The Wilderness Society said in a memo flagging the BLM data.

The API chalks up the decline to excessive regulations. "Federal acreage has been mired in excessive red tape for years, and this has effectively discouraged investment in oil and gas projects on BLM managed lands," spokeswoman Brooke Sammon tells ME via email, although did not mention of the steep decline in oil prices that occurred in the past several years.

PROPOSITIONAL POLITICS: Shareholders at public companies are currently offering more environment-related proposals than any other type, a Manhattan Institute-sponsored study finds. ExxonMobil shareholders pushing through a "2-degree scenario stress test" proposal earlier this year garnered most of the attention, but environmental proposals now beat out those touching upon lobbying disclosure, executive compensation and other issues, according to the study. And it found that support is rising among shareholders for the environmental proposals, which averaged 27 percent approval so far this year, up from 13 percent at the beginning of the decade.

MOVER/SHAKER: James M. Owendoff has been named DOE's Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary in the Office of Environmental Management. He had been senior adviser to the assistant secretary in the Office of Environmental Management since January 2010.

QUICK HITS:

— In disaster's wake, BP doubles down on deepwater despite surging shale, Reuters.

— Wanted In Saudi Arabia: An Extremely Careful Drive, Bloomberg.

— Kinder Morgan secures financial backing for Canadian pipeline, Fuel Fix.

— Saudi Aramco called on to improve data disclosure ahead of IPO, Financial Times.

— This Shipping Magnate Is Calling a Bottom in the Oil Rout, Wall Street Journal.

HAPPENING TODAY

8:45 a.m. — FERC conference on software and market efficiency, 888 First St. NE

10 a.m. — Oversight Hearing "Examining Policy Impacts of Excessive Litigation Against the Department of the Interior," House Natural Resources Committee, Subcommittee on Oversight and investigations, Longworth 1324

10 a.m. — Markup on Nuclear Regulatory Commissions and EPA staffing nominations and other legislation, Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, 406 Dirksen Senate Office Building.

10 a.m. — Markup of "Hydropower Policy Modernization Act of 2017", House Energy and Commerce Committee, 2123 Rayburn.

10:30 a.m. —"Energy Security, Transition and Dialogue" at Center for Strategic and International Studies, 1616 Rhode Island Ave., Nw.

11 a.m. — Markup of FY 2018 Energy and Water Appropriations Bill, House Appropriations Committee, Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Subcommittee, Rayburn 2362-B

2:30 p.m. — FY2018 budget request for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation, feat. Lt. Gen. Todd T. Semonite, Commanding General and Chief of Engineers, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Douglas Lamont, Senior Official Performing the Duties of the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works), Alan Mikkelsen Acting Commissioner Bureau of Reclamation, Senate Appropriations Committee, Energy and Water Development Subcommittee, Dirksen 138.

THAT'S ALL FOR ME! Anthony takes charge tomorrow.

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https://www.politicopro.com/tipsheets/morning-energy/2017/06/tribes-gather-at-white-house-023516

Stories from POLITICO Pro

White House talks energy policy as health care bill is delayed Back

By Andrew Restuccia | 06/27/2017 03:45 PM EDT

Energy Secretary Rick Perry held court in the White House briefing room for nearly 40 minutes on Tuesday, delivering an extended riff on energy policy as Senate Republican leaders announced they were delaying a vote on their health care bill.

Perry's remarks made for a bizarre split-screen moment, underscoring the disconnect between the policy themes selected by the White House - this week's focus is energy - and the news cycle, which this week has been dominated by the health care bill.

The White House has touted a series of policy-themed weeks over the last month, organizing events on everything from infrastructure to workforce development. They have largely been overshadowed by other major news events, including the expanding Russia investigation and Trump's tweets.

White House spokeswoman Sarah Sanders inched closer to the podium as Perry continued to take questions from the press corps on everything from U.S.-India energy relations, nuclear power and French President Emmanuel Macron's decision to invite Trump to France for Bastille Day.

Asked whether the potential trip to France is an opportunity to start new international climate talks, Perry said, "I would always look at an invitation to a party as a good thing." He added that he has always thought the French "were a little bit different - that's in a good way."

Pressed about his stance on climate change, Perry said, "The climate is changing, man is having an impact on it," adding later, "How much effect is what's at debate here."

Perry said he wants to have an "intellectual conversation" about what to do about climate change.

"I don't think whether anybody will question whether Secretary Perry is a high-energy guy," Sanders deadpanned after Perry forfeited the podium.

To view online click here.

Back

House bill would eliminate ARPA-E, bar future DOE loan guarantees Back

By Nick Juliano | 06/27/2017 01:26 PM EDT

House appropriators are calling to eliminate a popular late-stage research program and bar the Energy Department from issuing new loan guarantees while proposing to cut spending on energy efficiency and renewables nearly in half.

The cuts reflect House Republicans' preference for DOE's nuclear and fossil energy programs, which would receive much smaller reductions. The House plan would not cut most programs as steeply as President Donald Trump called for in his budget — but lawmakers made exceptions for the Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy and the loan-guarantee program.

The energy and water spending bill House appropriators released today does not include any funding for ARPA-E, which the Trump administration also proposed zeroing-out in its budget request.

For the loan-guarantee program, the spending bill would rescind nearly $161 million in money available to underwrite loan guarantees as well as DOE's authority to issue any new loans after Oct. 1. The bill would provide $2 million for administrative costs to be drawn from fees DOE has collected, a 95 percent reduction from the equivalent sum this year.

DOE's Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy office would receive about $1.1 billion in the House bill. That's down from nearly $2.1 billion the office received this year.

But the fossil and nuclear energy offices would not see anything close to that magnitude of cuts. The fossil office would receive about $635 million, down $33 million from this year, while nuclear would see $969 million, a $48 million reduction.

WHAT'S NEXT: The House Appropriations energy and water subcommittee will mark up its bill on Wednesday. Lawmakers on both sides of the aisle are likely to resist the call to cut ARPA-E as the appropriations bill moves through Congress in the coming months.

To view online click here.

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Trump picks lawyer involved in carbon rule challenge for DOJ enviro chief Back

By Alex Guillén | 06/06/2017 06:38 PM EDT

President Donald Trump plans to nominate longtime Washington lawyer Jeffrey Bossert Clark, who is involved in the lawsuits challenging EPA's Clean Power Plan, to run DOJ's Environment and Natural Resources Division, the White House announced today.

Clark has been a partner at Kirkland & Ellis since 1996, except between 2001 to 2005, when he was the deputy assistant attorney for ENRD.

Clark is involved in the litigation over EPA's Clean Power Plan, and likely will have to recuse himself from that lawsuit while running ENRD. He represented Consumers' Research, a self-described "independent educational organization," in filing a "friend of the court" brief along with the state of Nevada that urged the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals to strike down the carbon

rule.

He previously successfully argued on behalf of the Bush EPA before the D.C. Circuit in *Massachusetts v. EPA*, though that ruling was later overturned by the Supreme Court and ultimately established EPA's mandate to regulate greenhouse gases.

Clark has testified before Congress several times recently, including last year, when he supported legislation that would end Chevron deference, the doctrine in which courts are supposed to accept an agency's reasonable interpretation of ambiguous statutes.

Coincidentally, Jeffrey Wood, the Trump appointee currently acting as head of ENRD who has had to recuse himself from the Clean Power Plan lawsuit because he represented Republican lawmakers in a filing, will testify on Thursday at a House Judiciary oversight hearing.

To view online click here.

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Group sues EPA for emails with Carl Icahn Back

By Eric Wolff | 06/27/2017 03:13 PM EDT

American Oversight, a liberal-leaning policy group, said today that it sued the EPA to turn over emails between Administrator Scott Pruitt and billionaire Carl Icahn, or representatives of the refinery he owns.

American Oversight also seeks to obtain Pruitt's calendars and phone logs, in addition to his emails, to examine whether he was in communication with Icahn or other officials. The group says in its complaint that it has submitted two requests under the Freedom of Information Act, but it has not yet received any materials.

"President Trump tapping Carl Icahn to give advice on energy regulations is the definition of conflict of interest," American Oversight Executive Director Austin Evers said in a statement. "We need to know what kind of influence Mr. Icahn has at the EPA to see if he has been shaping energy policy to benefit himself at the expense of American families."

For years, Icahn and the refining giant Valero, as well as refineries near Philadelphia, have been pushing the EPA hard for changes to the Renewable Fuel Standard.

Icahn, whose properties include CVR Energy, was an early supporter of President Donald Trump. When Trump won, many assumed Icahn would use his influence to get the program altered, but the change has not been forthcoming. The nonprofit group, citing press reports, says that changes in ethanol regulations would have saved CVR Energy over $200 million in 2016.

Pruitt has resisted public records act requests in the past, waging a two-year fight to protect

emails from his time as Oklahoma Attorney General.

WHAT'S NEXT: A judge will take briefs and rule on the complaint.

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Subject: June 19 -- Daily Environment Report

Daily Environment Report

June 19, 2017 - Number 116

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Leading the News

Budget
Pruitt Willing to Work With Appropriators on Chemical Testing
EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt said he is willing to work with Congress on funding the agency's process to evaluate chemicals, pesticides, and environmental contaminants for endocrine system health impacts.

EPA
Pruitt Schedule Peppered With Energy Company Meetings
Frequent meetings with energy company executives marked EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt's first six weeks in office, including a sit-down with a political benefactor of the former Oklahoma attorney general, his newly released schedule shows.

General Policy
Week Ahead: It's Perry's Turn in the Budget-Defense Barrel
Energy Secretary Rick Perry is expected to face grilling from Congress similar to what EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt received about proposed steep cuts to his agency's fiscal 2018 budget—one of numerous energy and environment events during the week of June 19.

News

Air Pollution
EPA Accepts New Air Monitoring Technology for State, City Use
States and cities have two more EPA-sanctioned tools available to measure carbon monoxide and nitrogen dioxide concentrations in the atmosphere.

Air Pollution

Group Challenges Tesoro's California Refinery Expansion
Legal claims that tied up a refinery modernization project in Northern California for at least six years could stall Tesoro Corp.'s plan to upgrade and integrate two Los Angeles-area refineries.

Brownfields
Correction
The story "E-Commerce Boosts Demand for Brownfields Redevelopment," published June 5, misspelled the name of the firm Brownfield Listings.

Chemicals
Former EPA Chemicals Chief Jumps to Trade Group
Jim Jones spent much of his career immersed in chemical safety regulation at the EPA. For the first time in 30 years, he'll be working from the outside looking in.

Chemicals
Slashing EPA Budget May Send Wrong Staff to Toxics Office
Former EPA chemicals officials warned that if the agency's budget is significantly cut, employees with the wrong training may be transferred to implement a recently amended chemicals law.

Climate Change
Canada May Withhold Funds if Provinces Don't Join Climate Change Plan
Canada gave holdout provinces Saskatchewan and Manitoba until year's end to join the country's climate change framework or forfeit federal funds that would go toward climate change mitigation efforts.

Climate Policy
Green Bond Growth Unruffled by U.S. Paris Exit, EIB Says
Green bond sales by borrowers including Apple Inc. show the U.S. pullout from the Paris climate accord has not slowed a market that almost doubled last year, the European Investment Bank's capital markets chief said.

Drinking Water
Saint-Gobain to Pay for Water Hookups, Vermont Law Says
Saint-Gobain Performance Plastics Corp. must foot the bill to hook up Vermont homes impacted by the company's PFOA releases to the public water system, under a new state law.

Energy
Canadian Oil-Sands Production Expected to Grow Rapidly
Canada's oil-sands will increase production rapidly in the next three years, ranking only behind U.S. shale as the biggest contributor to global supply growth.

Enforcement
California Cargo Companies Fined for Excess Diesel Pollution
California has fined three shipping industry companies for failing to control diesel air pollution from their heavy-duty cargo handling equipment.

General Policy
Environmental Firm Beveridge & Diamond Opens Seattle Office
Beveridge & Diamond PC, a full-service environmental law firm, has opened its second West Coast office in Seattle, the firm announced June 16. The office will be the firm's eighth and

add five attorneys--two principals and three associates--to its roster of approximately 100.

Oceans

Canada Seeks Expedited Power to Protect Ocean Zones

Canada wants the authority to quickly declare sensitive marine environments temporarily off-limits to oil and gas production without going through the process of obtaining permanent protection status, which can take upwards of a decade.

Oil Spills

Canadian National Railway Fined for 2015 Fuel Spill

Canadian National Railway Co. was fined C$2.5 million ($1.9 million) for a 2015 incident when it discharged diesel fuel into the North Saskatchewan River.

REACH

EU Sets Phaseout Dates For 12 Hazardous Chemicals

A European Commission decision to prohibit the use of 12 hazardous substances in the European Union ending a three-year moratorium on phaseout decisions is a welcome development, the European Chemicals Agency told Bloomberg BNA June 16.

Renewable Energy

Merkel Cabinet Opens German Clean Power Auctions to EU Neighbors

Chancellor Angela Merkel's Cabinet approved a plan to allow companies in nations neighboring Germany to compete in clean power auctions.

Toxic Substances

EU Designates Bisphenol A an Endocrine Disruptor

The widely used chemical bisphenol A will be categorized as an endocrine disruptor for the purposes of the European Union's REACH regulation, the European Chemicals Agency said June 16.

Toxic Substances

EU Publishes Nanomaterials Resources

The European Union has published two new resources providing an overview of nanomaterials on the EU market and cataloging the use of nanomaterials in cosmetics sold in the bloc.

Water Pollution

U.S. Navy in Hot Water for Washing Retired Aircraft Carrier

The cleanup of a decommissioned aircraft carrier at a base in Puget Sound's Sinclair Inlet has landed the U.S. Navy in court for an alleged Clean Water Act violation.

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Daily Environment Report for EPA

To: Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
From: Morning Score
Sent: Wed 6/7/2017 2:05:39 PM
Subject: POLITICO's Morning Score: California voters choose Becerra replacement — Guadagno, Murphy win New Jersey governor primaries — Handel, Ossoff clash in first GA-06 debate as DCCC calls on members to give

By Daniel Strauss | 06/07/2017 10:00 AM EDT

With Kevin Robillard and Scott Bland

The following newsletter is an abridged version of Campaign Pro's Morning Score. For an earlier morning read on exponentially more races - and for a more comprehensive aggregation of the day's most important campaign news - sign up for Campaign Pro today. (http://www.politicopro.com/proinfo)

IN CALIFORNIA - "California voters choose Gomez to replace Becerra," by POLITICO California's David SIders: "Jimmy Gomez, a state assemblyman with the support of establishment Democrats in Los Angeles, defeated Robert Lee Ahn, a lawyer with deep roots in the district's Korean-American community, Tuesday in the race to fill a vacant House seat. The Democrat-on-Democrat contest to fill California Attorney General Xavier Becerra's former congressional seat ... became a clash of two different ethnic groups' influence in the safely Democratic district. According to final unofficial results, Gomez won by 60 percent to 40 percent." **Full story.**

IN NEW JERSEY - "Murphy, Guadagno win gubernatorial primaries," by POLITICO New Jersey's Matt Friedman: "New Jersey's Democratic and Republican gubernatorial front-runners easily won their party primaries Tuesday night, setting up a November battle between Phil Murphy, a wealthy former Goldman Sachs executive, and Republican Kim Guadagno, the state's current and first ever lieutenant governor. Murphy, who served as U.S. ambassador to Germany from 2009 to 2013, spent more than $20 million on the primary, much of it from his own pocket. ... Murphy's Goldman Sachs background was seized on by his opponents ... [but he] is widely favored to win in November after eight years of Republican Gov. Chris Christie, whose approval rating is in the high teens, and because of New Jersey's Democratic tilt. In his victory speech in Newark, Murphy made clear that he wasn't just running against Guadagno. He's also running against Christie and President Donald Trump." **Full story.**

- AFTER THE PRIMARY - American Bridge dings Guadagno: Fresh off last night's results, the Democratic opposition research group American Bridge released a new video Wednesday morning attacking Guadagno, using praise offered by outgoing (and unpopular) New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie to the GOP nominee to replace him. Watch the video **here**.

DEBATE NIGHT - "Handel, Ossoff clash in Georgia special election debate," by Campaign Pro's Elena Schneider: "Democrat Jon Ossoff and Republican Karen Handel clashed on the debate stage for the first time Tuesday night, sparring face-to-face over their resumes, campaign financing and foreign policy positioning in Georgia's special House election after months of trading campaign attacks over the airwaves. Ossoff and Handel, who are running

to replace Health and Human Services Secretary Tom Price in Congress in suburban Atlanta, stuck largely to the same lines of attack repeated in the flood of TV ads that have made their race the most expensive House contest ever. But both of the candidates also weighed in on President Donald Trump, with Handel advising the president to change his 'Twitter policy.'" **Full story.**

- FIRST IN SCORE - DCCC issues "red alert" to members for contributions to Ossoff: DCCC chairman Ben Ray Lujan will ask House Democrats to contribute to Ossoff's GA-06 campaign on Wednesday morning at a meeting. It's the committee's first "red alert" ask for member contributions to a battleground race this year, as the pro-Trump nonprofit America First Policies starts a late $1.6 million ad campaign. As of a week ago, media-tracking sources said Democrats and Republicans were about even in terms of TV ad reservations for the final week of the race, but that was before the final infusion of GOP outside-group money into GA-06. Keep an eye on Ossoff's 48-hour FEC reports for the next few days to see who's chipping in. (So far, the reports have shown contributions to Ossoff from the likes of Kevin Bacon and Laurene Powell Jobs, while Handel has gotten cash from the leadership PACs of Sen. Joni Ernst and Rep. Marsha Blackburn.)

- MORE GEORGIA - See the latest ads from Ossoff, Handel, the pro-Trump America First Policies, and AARP.

Days until the 2017 election: 152.

Days until the 2018 election: 516.

Thanks for joining us. Your Morning Score author today is very excited about this new Game of Thrones themed bar The Washingtonian reported about. You can email tips to the Campaign Pro team at sbland@politico.com, eschneider@politico.com, krobillard@politico.com and dstrauss@politico.com.

You can also follow us on Twitter: @politicoscott, @ec_schneider, @politicokevin and @danielstrauss4.

WOMEN RULE PODCAST: "It's difficult to be a conservative woman [in politics]." In an exclusive interview with former presidential candidate and business woman, Carly Fiorina sits down with POLITICO editor Carrie Budoff Brown to discuss the unique challenges women face when running for public office. "I was scrutinized, caricatured, criticized differently than a man would be." Fiorina also shares her thoughts on Hillary Clinton's loss, " ... as much as I did not want her to be president of the United States because of her policy positions, I have empathy for Hillary Clinton." And she has one message to President Trump: Stop tweeting. Listen and subscribe: iTunes | Soundcloud | Stitcher

DATA FIGHT - "RNC uses Clinton comments to tout data prowess," by Campaign Pro's Elena Schneider: "The Republican National Committee has seized on Hillary Clinton's recent criticism of the Democrats' data operations to fire another shot in the political tech wars, declaring a data edge over Democrats as the parties prepare for the 2018 midterms. The RNC, which struggled with its data operations relative to Democrats during the 2008 and 2012

elections, did pump more than $175 million into its infrastructure over the last four years, which it says yielded a rich voter file and strong analytics program. Now, the RNC is also promising to send data directors into two-dozen battleground states in 2018. 'We are far ahead of the Democrats heading into the midterms,' added Juston Johnson, the RNC's political director. 'I think, without question, our product is better than anything that they've got on the other side.' Last week, Clinton called the DNC's data operation 'mediocre to poor, nonexistent, wrong,' ... The comments provoked fury among some Democratic techies, which the RNC has been happy to stoke - though consultants on both sides wonder just how real the RNC's claimed data edge is." **Full story.**

OL' VIRGINNY - Perriello misses out on MoveOn endorsement: An email sent to MoveOn.org members in Virginia said the group wouldn't make an endorsement in the state's Democratic primary. While members backed former Rep. Tom Perriello over Lt. Gov. Ralph Northam by a 56 percent to 44 percent margin, it didn't reach the required 66 percent mark needed for an endorsement.

- Stewart releases radio ad: Prince William County Board of Supervisors Chair Corey Stewart is out with a minute-long radio ad that spends the first 40 seconds attacking GOP front-runner Ed Gillespie over Confederate monuments and immigration policy, labeling him a "K Street insider lobbyist" that will "lose again in November." The final 20 seconds are spent praising Stewart's "solid record." Listen here.

- THE STATE OF PLAY - "Big spending gap could decide Virginia governor primary," by Campaign Pro's Kevin Robillard: "Democrats' upcoming primary for governor in Virginia is being painted as a litmus test for the party's future and a trial of what progressive voters most prize in the Trump era. But there is also a more conventional story brewing: Lt. Gov. Ralph Northam has a commanding edge in campaign spending leading up to next week's election, allowing him to spread his message further than former Rep. Tom Perriello. Northam has spent almost twice as much money on TV ads as Perriello, his Democratic rival, in recent months - $3.7 million to $2 million, according to a source tracking media spending in Virginia." **Full story.**

RED GOVS IN BLUE STATES - Baker, Scott join climate alliance, Hogan still deciding, Sununu says no: Of the five Republican governors up for reelection next year in traditionally blue or blue-tinted states, two - Charlie Baker of Massachusetts and Phil Scott of Vermont - have already announced plans to join the U.S. Climate Alliance, a Democratic-led group of states pledging to uphold clean energy and carbon reduction commitments under the Paris Agreement. That's enough to put a squeeze on some other governors: spokespeople for Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan have already said he wouldn't have left the Paris Agreement, but Hogan is "still learning" about the Climate Alliance, a spokeswoman told The Baltimore Sun. Democratic challengers have already begun pressuring him to join. Illinois Gov. Bruce Rauner has also faced Democratic criticism, but has been mum on both Trump's pullout and whether he would join the Climate Alliance. New Hampshire Gov. Chris Sununu told the Concord Monitor his state would not join the pact.

CODA - QUOTE OF THE DAY: "Sometimes you should just put down the computer, the

phone and walk away." - Georgia Republican House candidate Karen Handel, offering advice to President Donald Trump in a special election debate Tuesday night.

To view online:
http://www.politico.com/tipsheets/morning-score/2017/06/07/california-voters-choose-becerra-replacement-220704

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To: Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
From: Bloomberg BNA
Sent: Thur 5/25/2017 7:59:24 PM
Subject: [SPAM] May 25 -- Energy and Climate Report - Afternoon Briefing

Energy and Climate Report

Afternoon Briefing - Your Preview of Today's News

The following news provides a snapshot of what Bloomberg BNA is working on today. Read the full version of all the stories in the final issue, published each night.

White House Reviewing Plan to Pause Methane Rule

Posted May 25, 2017, 10:11 A.M. ET

By David Schultz

The White House is reviewing an EPA plan to pause implementation of an Obama administration rule designed to limit methane emissions from oil and gas wells, according to the Office of Management and Budget website.

EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt announced last month that he wanted to pause the standards before June, when a new set of compliance deadlines on the oil and gas industry would take effect. The regulation, one of the centerpieces of the Obama administration's climate policy, requires operators of new or modified wells to significantly boost their monitoring for leaking methane, a potent greenhouse gas.

The Trump administration has moved to halt implementation of many Obama-era environmental regulations, including regulations on methane emissions from landfills.

Colorado May Shut Down Wells If Oil, Gas Companies Miss Deadlines

Posted May 25, 2017, 02:55 P.M. ET

By Tripp Baltz

The Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission could order the shutdown of any oil and gas well if those wells' operators fail to meet upcoming deadlines to check certain pipelines.

Commission director Matt Lepore warned producers that shutdowns could apply to wells connected to underground flowlines covered by a notice to operators sent after a fatal home explosion last month in Firestone, Colo., Todd Hartman, spokesman for the state Department of Natural Resources, told Bloomberg BNA May 25.

The notice directs operators to inspect flowlines by May 30 and pressure test them for leaks by June 30, Hartman said. Frederick-Firestone Fire Protection investigators identified odorless, colorless natural gas leaking from a severed 1-inch flowline that ran six feet from the destroyed home as the cause of the April 17 explosion and fire that killed two men and left a woman critically injured.

Inspect and Test

Following that determination, the commission, at the direction of Colorado Gov. John Hickenlooper (D), ordered oil and gas companies to inspect any existing flowlines and pipelines located within 1,000 feet of an occupied building including homes, schools, and hospitals, by May 30. The order requires operators to ensure integrity of such pipelines by pressure testing them by June 30.

The flowline implicated in the Firestone explosion was technically "abandoned"—a term which means it had previously been taken out of service—but had not been properly disconnected from the wellhead and capped as required by a commission rule (Rule 1103). The line was not in use in 2016, but natural gas began flowing through it again in January 2017.

Anadarko Petroleum Co. was the owner and operator of the flowline at the time of the incident. The previous owner was Noble Energy Inc. It remains unknown how the line was severed.

Anadarko officials didn't immediate respond to Bloomberg BNA's request for comment.

Capped and Sealed

Two additional requirements are included in the notice to operators. Companies are required by May 30 to inspect all existing flowlines and pipelines, regardless of their distance from an occupied building, that have been abandoned under Rule 1103.

Flowline or pipeline risers—the portion of a line that juts out from the ground—must be clearly marked using fluorescent paint, have all operating valves removed, be sealed, and be capped so they are cut off below the ground.

By June 30 operators must complete abandonment of any flowline or pipeline not actively operated regardless of distance form an occupied building and regardless of when it was taken out of service, the commission said.

Group of Exxon Investors to Back Climate Change Plan Board Opposes

Posted May 25, 2017, 02:02 P.M. ET

By Emily Chasan

Almost 90 Exxon Mobil Corp. investors plan to back a proposal that would pressure the company to bolster its disclosure of climate change risks and opportunities.

The shareholders include the New York state and city pension funds and the California Public Employees' Retirement System, according to data compiled by investor advocacy group Ceres. Vanguard Group is considering voting for the proposal, Glenn Booraem, the firm's investment stewardship officer, said in a May 25 email.

The proposal will be taken up at Exxon's annual meeting on May 31 in Dallas.

Environmentally focused shareholders are stepping up efforts to pressure companies on climate issues.

A similar proposal at Exxon last year received about 38 percent support, the highest ever for a climate vote at the company. Comparable initiatives at Occidental Petroleum Corp. and PPL Corp. received majority support over management objections. BlackRock Inc., the world's largest asset manager, supported the proposal at Occidental.

BlackRock hasn't yet decided on its Exxon vote, Zach Oleksiuk, head of Americas for BlackRock Investment Stewardship, said in an email May 25.

Exxon opposes the proposal. Scott Silvestri, an Exxon spokesman, declined to comment further.

The shareholder move seeks to push Exxon to publish an annual assessment on how the 2 degree Celsius global warming reduction target set by the Paris Agreement will affect its portfolio long term.

Exxon is "really out of step with their peers around the world," said Sue Reid, vice president of climate and energy at Ceres.

Proxy advisory firms Institutional Shareholder Services and Glass Lewis & Co. are recommending shareholders override management and support the proposal.

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Energy and Climate Report

To: Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
From: POLITICO Pro
Sent: Tue 7/25/2017 6:38:21 PM
Subject: DOT moves forward with next phase of CAFE standards

By Alex Guillén

07/25/2017 02:34 PM EDT

The Transportation Department is preparing to issue the next slate of fuel economy standards for model year 2022-2025 cars.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration will take public comment on what information it should consider when preparing an environmental impact statement for the next phase of CAFE standards, according to a notice to be published in Wednesday's Federal Register.

Once NHTSA finishes the environmental review, it will propose and finalize new standards for those model years.

The CAFE standards are on a different review schedule than a companion rule on vehicle greenhouse emissions from EPA, which set requirements through model year 2025. NHTSA by law can only set fuel economy standards in blocks of up to five years at a time, meaning the agency was always going to have to write new CAFE rules starting with model year 2022.

The Obama administration said in January, more than 14 months ahead of schedule, that EPA would leave its greenhouse gas standards for 2022-2025 vehicles in place, but after requests from automakers the Trump administration has reopened that review, which is due April 2018. If EPA decides to weaken the standards, the decision will be open to a court challenge.

NHTSA says it plans to consider eight possible CAFE standards, including one that would simply continue the 2021 standard "indefinitely."

The Sierra Club has already blasted that possibility, saying the standards must continue to tighten to protect the environment.

WHAT'S NEXT: NHTSA will accept comment for 30 days on the scope of its environmental rule for the next round of CAFE standards.

To view online:
https://www.politicopro.com/energy/whiteboard/2017/07/dot-moves-forward-with-next-phase-of-cafe-standards-091035

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To: Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
From: Anna Palmer and Jake Sherman
Sent: Tue 5/23/2017 10:46:01 AM
Subject: POLITICO Playbook, presented by the Coalition for Affordable Prescription Drugs (CAPD): 22 DEAD in Manchester horror -- TRUMP: terrorists are 'evil losers in life' -- Eliana and Dawsey SCOOP: LEWANDOWSKI, BOSSIE back in the mix -- GARCETTI talks 2020

View online version | Add politicoplaybook@politico.com to your address book.

Today's PLAYBOOK presented by the Coalition for Affordable Prescription Drugs (CAPD)
05/23/2017 06:43 AM EDT

By ANNA PALMER (anna@politico.com; @apalmerdc), JAKE SHERMAN (sherman@politico.com; @JakeSherman), DANIEL LIPPMAN (daniel@politico.com; @dlippman)

Driving the Day

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Good Tuesday morning. PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP in BETHLEHEM offered his "deepest condolences to those so terribly injured in this terrorist attack" in Manchester, United Kingdom.

NEW LINE ALERT -- "LOSERS" -- TRUMP in the West Bank: Terrorists are **"EVIL LOSERS IN LIFE." TRUMP'S EXPLANATION**, via pooler Mike Memoli: "So many young, beautiful innocent people living and enjoying their lives murdered by evil losers in life. I won't call them monsters because they would like that term. They would think that's a great name. I will call them from now on losers, because that's what they are. They're losers. And we'll have more of them. But they're losers. Just remember that."

MANCHESTER EVENING NEWS FRONT PAGE -- "MASSACRE: 22 CHILDREN AND ADULTS ARE MURDERED BY SUICIDE BOMBER AT ARENA POP CONCERT" http://bit.ly/2q6NAwi

AP at 6:05 a.m.: "LONDON (AP) - British prime minister says terrorist attack among the worst Britain has experienced."

-- THE LATEST: AP at 5:17 a.m., by Jill Lawless in Manchester and Gregory Katz in London, with Leanne Italie in New York, Mesfin Fekadu in Jersey City and Lori Hinnant and John Leicester in Paris: "An apparent suicide bomber attacked an Ariana Grande concert as it ended Monday night, killing 22 people among a panicked crowd of young concertgoers, some still wearing the star's trademark kitten ears and holding pink

balloons as they fled.

"Teenage screams filled the arena just after the explosion, which also killed the attacker and injured dozens. The attack sparked a nightlong search for loved ones - parents for the children they had accompanied or agreed to pick up, and friends for each other after groups were scattered by the blast. Twitter and Facebook were filled with appeals for the missing. ... There was no immediate claim of responsibility, but Chief Constable Ian Hopkins said police are treating the blast as an act of terrorism 'until we know otherwise.' ...

"Forensic investigations are trying to determine if the attacker had accomplices, Hopkins said. He provided no information about the person who set off the bomb....There was no immediate claim of responsibility. Supporters of the extremist Islamic State group, which holds territory in Iraq's Mosul and around its de facto capital in the Syrian city of Raqqa, celebrated the blast online. ... If the explosion is confirmed as a terrorist attack it would be the deadliest in Britain since four suicide bombers killed 52 London commuters on three subway trains and a bus in July 2005." http://apne.ws/2rOiVA5

AP BULLETIN at 4:42 a.m. -- "SEOUL, South Korea (AP) - South Korean military says it fired warning shot after unidentified object flew south from North Korea."

ON THE WORLD STAGE -- "Turkey tests Trump's patience after protesters roughed up," by Nahal Toosi: "Turkish officials, under pressure to prove loyalty to their autocratic president, are casting fresh blame on the United States following a violent clash last week between Turkish security guards and protesters in Washington. And there's not a whole lot the Trump administration can do about it.

"Turkey's Foreign Ministry on Monday summoned the U.S. ambassador in Ankara to lodge a formal protest days after Washington police intervened to stop Turkish security officials from beating up protesters. The violence near the Turkish embassy came soon after Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan met with President Donald Trump at the White House, and video caught Erdogan watching some of the skirmish.

"The May 16 melee and subsequent diplomatic kerfuffle have offered an astonishing glimpse into the growing hostility between America and Turkey, two NATO allies at odds over how best to fight Islamic State terrorists, among other disputes." http://politi.co/2rvlcnu

TOP MIDDLE-EAST TWEETS -- Bill Booth (@BoothWilliam), Jerusalem bureau chief for the Washington Post: "Between the lines: Trump tells Abbas to curb incitement, condemn attacks against Israeli civilians & stop payments to prisoners and martyrs" ... **@Yair_Rosenberg:** "Oh man, watch Israeli ambassador Ron Dermer (on right couch) react when Trump says-in Israel-'We just got back from the Middle East.'" http://bit.ly/2rNfw4w

...

... @aarondmiller2: "In knowing [and] working with Netanyahu for decades, never -- and I mean never -- have I seen him so relaxed in presence of a US president." ... **@robertdanin:** "Commentators on @Channel2News repeatedly referring to Ivanka Trump by her Hebrew name 'Yael'. Israelis seem to see her as family."

-- After departing Bethlehem, **DONALD TRUMP** went back to the hotel, and then to Yad V'Shem, Israel's Holocaust museum. He is going to give a speech at the Israel Museum in the 7 a.m. hour on the East coast. He is then scheduled to depart for Rome.

THE PRIZE FIGHT CONTINUES: NYT and WAPO's LATEST SCOOPS ...

-- "Trump asked intelligence chiefs to push back against FBI collusion probe after Comey revealed its existence," by WaPo's Adam Entous and Ellen Nakashima: "President Trump asked two of the nation's top intelligence officials in March to help him push back against an FBI investigation into possible coordination between his campaign and the Russian government, according to current and former officials. Trump made separate appeals to the director of national intelligence, Daniel Coats, and to Adm. Michael S. Rogers, the director of the [NSA], urging them to publicly deny the existence of any evidence of collusion during the 2016 election. Coats and Rogers refused to comply with the requests, which they both deemed to be inappropriate ...

"'The White House does not confirm or deny unsubstantiated claims based on illegal leaks from anonymous individuals,' [an unnamed] White House spokesman said. 'The president will continue to focus on his agenda that he was elected to pursue by the American people.' In addition to the requests to Coats and Rogers, senior White House officials sounded out top intelligence officials about the possibility of intervening directly with Comey to encourage the FBI to drop its probe of Michael Flynn, ... The officials said the White House appeared uncertain about its power to influence the FBI. 'Can we ask him to shut down the investigation? Are you able to assist in this matter?' one official said of the line of questioning from the White House." http://wapo.st/2qe2nR2

-- NYT A1, "Michael Flynn Misled Pentagon About His Russia Ties, Letter Says," by Mark Mazzetti and Matt Rosenberg: "Mr. Flynn ... told investigators in February 2016 that he had received no income from foreign companies and had only 'insubstantial contact' with foreign nationals ... In fact, Mr. Flynn had sat two months earlier beside President Vladimir V. Putin of Russia at a Moscow gala for RT, the Kremlin-financed television network, which paid Mr. Flynn more than $45,000 to attend the event and give a separate speech. His failure to make those disclosures and his apparent attempt to mislead the Pentagon could put Mr. Flynn in further legal jeopardy. Intentionally lying to federal investigators is a felony punishable by up to five years in prison." http://nyti.ms/2qQybx3 ... ***The letter*** http://bit.ly/2q6oVrq

****** **A message from the Coalition for Affordable Prescription Drugs (CAPD)** One in two Americans rely on their employers for health care benefits including affordable access to prescription drugs. That's why employers are partnering with PBMs to provide

access to effective medications at the most affordable price and improve health outcomes. Learn more at www.affordableprescriptiondrugs.org. ******

TRUMP'S BUDGET OUT TODAY -- "Trump's budget hits his own voters hardest : The president's proposal for next year's federal spending calls for more than $1 trillion in cuts to social programs, including farm aid," by Andrew Restuccia, Matt Nussbaum and Sarah Ferris: "Rather than breaking with Washington precedent, Trump's spending blueprint follows established conservative orthodoxy, cutting taxes on the wealthy, boosting defense spending and taking a hatchet to programs for the poor and disabled -- potentially hurting many of the rural and low-income Americans that voted him into office. ...

"The president's budget plan calls for more than $1 trillion in cuts to a wide range of social programs with millions of beneficiaries, from farm subsidies to federal student aid. That includes a $600 billion cut to Medicaid over 10 years, despite Trump's repeated promises on the campaign trail not to cut the program. The budget also takes an ax to the federal food stamp program and Social Security Disability Insurance.

"Trump also proposes some of the deepest cuts to agriculture subsidies since Ronald Reagan, squeezing out nearly $50 billion over 10 years. Trump's budget would drastically cut domestic programs controlled by Congress, slashing $1.7 trillion over 10 years. At the end of the decade, the U.S. would spend nearly twice as much on defense as on other domestic programs. Domestic discretionary spending would be capped at $429 billion per year, below 2004 levels, while military spending soars to $722 billion." http://politi.co/2qRmxIF

-- THE REALITY ABOUT BUDGETS... -- This budget -- like President Barack Obama's budget before it -- is dead on arrival on Capitol Hill. But it does represent a negotiating point for the administration as they pursue other budgeting priorities. That being said, we believe it's going to be difficult for the House and Senate to pass a budget this year, which could stall -- or stop -- tax reform.

FLYNN WATCH -- "Burr: Flynn could be held in contempt," by Austin Wright and Burgess Everett: "Senate Intelligence Chairman Richard Burr is not ruling out holding Michael Flynn in contempt of Congress as President Donald Trump's former national security adviser continues to stonewall Congress. Flynn's lawyer informed the Intelligence panel Monday that Flynn would not honor a subpoena for a list of his interactions with Russian officials in the run-up to last year's presidential election.

"And the North Carolina Republican said his committee has 'plenty' of options to respond. 'You'll just have to wait and watch. [Contempt is] certainly one of the avenues that we could pursue,' Burr told three reporters on Monday evening. 'It does us no good to have people insist on pleading the Fifth if you're out trying to get information. The only thing I can tell you is immunity is off the table.'" http://politi.co/2rOcxZz

INSIDE THE WHITE HOUSE -- "Trump close to choosing outside counsel for

Russia investigation," by WaPo's Bob Costa and Ashley Parker: "The attorneys who have spoken to the White House and who are seen as the finalists are Marc E. Kasowitz; Robert J. Giuffra Jr.; Reid H. Weingarten; and Theodore B. Olson ... Two other attorneys who were originally viewed as contenders but have since drifted away from the mix, at least momentarily, because of legal or professional obstacles are Brendan V. Sullivan Jr. of Williams & Connolly and A.B. Culvahouse Jr. ... Kasowitz, who has known Trump for decades, is expected to take a leading role. A partner at Kasowitz, Benson, Torres & Friedman in New York, Kasowitz has represented Trump in numerous cases, including on his divorce records, real estate transactions and allegations of fraud at Trump University." http://wapo.st/2rJFIxW

THE INVESTIGATION -- "Mueller briefed on secret Comey memos, source says," by CNN's Pamela Brown and Shimon Prokupecz: "Additionally, he has already visited FBI headquarters, where he met with the counterintelligence agents who have been working on the case since last July, according to two people familiar with the matter." http://cnn.it/2qb2BJj

-- @NBCNews: "JUST IN: Former Trump associates Paul Manafort and Roger Stone have turned over documents to Senate Intel Committee, source tells NBC News"

NEW SHERIFFS AT 1600? "Trump eyeing Lewandowski, Bossie as crisis managers," by Eliana Johnson and Josh Dawsey: "The White House is looking to wall off the scandals threatening to overtake the president's agenda by building a separate crisis management operation. President Donald Trump personally reached out to two of his former campaign aides -- his first campaign manager, Corey Lewandowski, and his deputy campaign manager, David Bossie -- to sound them out about working with the administration as crisis managers, according to two people familiar with the situation. ... The scope and complexity of independent investigations has typically proved a challenge for regular White House staffers, who have struggled to juggle them with their day-to-day duties, and veterans of previous administrations say creating an independent operation can relieve some of the pressure on the press office." http://politi.co/2q4DT1v

COMING ATTRACTIONS -- "Ryan bucks White House, setting up clash on taxes," by Rachael Bade: "Paul Ryan and the White House are barreling toward a tax reform show-down -- a faceoff that's becoming all but inevitable as the speaker continues selling a tax plan rejected by Trump officials. At issue is a controversial pillar of the House GOP tax plan that effectively hikes taxes on imports.

"Top administration officials from Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin to chief economic adviser Gary Cohn have warned the speaker that they're not exactly fans of the so-called border adjustment tax -- hoping Ryan would take a hint and change direction. But the Wisconsin Republican is refusing to back off, arguing in recent days that it's 'the smart way to go.' And over the weekend, his key ally on the matter, Ways and Means Chairman Kevin Brady (R-Texas), began circulating talking points encouraging panel members to sell the scheme." http://politi.co/2rcprEx ... ***The talking points*** http://politi.co/2qQhvaZ

-- THIS IS EXACTLY THE TYPE OF INTERNAL DIVISION Mnuchin and other top White House officials have been trying to avoid. Mnuchin has spent weeks meeting with Republicans and even some Democrats on Capitol Hill and on K Street as he's tried to build consensus and good will for a major tax reform bill. With the border adjustment tax all but dead in the Senate, it's unclear what Ryan's endgame strategy is as he continues to push the measure that is also fairly unpopular within his own ranks.

SNEAK PEEK -- PROPUBLICA'S ALEC MACGILLIS in **NYT MAGAZINE: "Jared Kushner's Other Real Estate Empire** : Baltimore-area renters complain about a property owner who they say neglects their homes and often sues when they leave. Few of them know the landlord is the president's son-in-law": "[A]mid the high-profile Manhattan and Brooklyn purchases, in 2011, Kushner Companies, with Jared now more firmly in command, pulled together a deal that looked much more like something from the firm's humble past than from its high-rolling present. That June, the company and its equity partners bought 4,681 units of what are known in real estate jargon as 'distress-ridden, Class B' apartment complexes: units whose prices fell somewhere in the middle of the market, typically of a certain age and wear, whose owners were in financial difficulty. The properties were spread across 12 sites in Toledo, Ohio; Pittsburgh; and other Rust Belt cities still reeling from the Great Recession." http://nyti.ms/2rvUVVO

THE JUICE ...

-- BRODERICK JOHNSON and **ROBERT DOAR** are joining the Path Forward Coalition, a joint project focused on the positive aspects of service industry jobs of the National Restaurant Association and the National Retail Federation, as senior advisers. Potomac West Group runs the coalition's day-to-day operations. Look for Capitol Hill events in mid-June and mid-July.

-- JESSICA SMITH started on Monday as chief operating officer at J Street. She previously was managing director within the public affairs and crisis practice at Burson-Marsteller.

LATE-NIGHT BEST -- RACHEL MADDOW on **STEPHEN COLBERT** http://bit.ly/2qQ6x5t ... http://bit.ly/2qKbaO6 ... **BEN PLATT!** on Colbert. http://bit.ly/2qQiQyw ... http://bit.ly/2qQbE5H

Playbook Reads

PHOTO DU JOUR: Palestinian president Mahmoud Abbas shakes hands with President Donald Trump after delivering a statement following their meeting in the West Bank city of Bethlehem on May 23. | Nasser Nasser/AP Photo

OFF MESSAGE PODCAST: Will Eric Garcetti throw his hat into the ring for 2020? In the latest episode of Off Message, Isaac Dovere sits down with the mayor of Los Angeles, a city, as Garcetti points out, with four million residents. California is the sixth-largest economy in the world and L.A. has the seventeenth-largest population globally, if it was an independent country. With Garcetti's keynote at the California state Democratic convention next month, many party leaders across the country believe he could be a real contender. ***Listen and subscribe*** http://apple.co/2nEa7y0

-- "Eric Garcetti isn't running for president (wink, wink)," by Isaac Dovere: http://politi.co/2qK3NWK

DRAIN THE SWAMP! - NYT A1, "White House Moves to Block Ethics Inquiry Into Ex-Lobbyists on Payroll," by Eric Lipton: "The Trump administration, in a significant escalation of its clash with the government's top ethics watchdog, has moved to block an effort to disclose the names of former lobbyists who have been granted waivers to work in the White House or federal agencies. ... Mr. Shaub returned a scalding, 10-page response to the White House late Monday, unlike just about any correspondence in the history of the office, created after the Nixon Watergate scandal. ... Dozens of former lobbyists and industry lawyers are working in the Trump administration, which has hired them at a much higher rate than the previous administration. Keeping the waivers confidential would make it impossible to know whether any such officials are violating federal ethics rules or have been given a pass to ignore them." http://nyti.ms/2q56eEU ... ***Shaub's letter*** http://bit.ly/2rLHfnc

--"Amid complicated relations with U.S., Turkey hires longtime Trump lobbyist Brian Ballard," by Florida Playbooker Marc Caputo: "President Donald Trump's longtime Florida lobbyist, Brian Ballard, has expanded his practice globally and just signed a $1.5 million contract with the government of Turkey, which will be represented by the firm's new big hire, former Florida Congressman Robert Wexler. ... Wexler is new to lobbying and joined Ballard Partners in March. He's still serving as president of the S. Daniel Abraham Center for Middle East Peace, a Washington-based think tank devoted to Israeli-Palestinian relations." http://politi.co/2qJpJS9 ... ***Subscribe to Florida Playbook*** http://politi.co/1OypFe9

TOP-ED - MONICA LEWINSKY in the NYT, "Roger Ailes's Dream Was My Nightmare": "Mr. Ailes, a former Republican political operative, took the story of the affair and the trial that followed and made certain his anchors hammered it ceaselessly, 24 hours a day. ... John Moody, a Fox executive editor, reflected on that period[:] ... 'Monica was a news channel's dream come true.' Their dream was my nightmare. My character, my looks and my life were picked apart mercilessly. ... My family and I huddled at home, worried about my going to jail - I was the original target of Kenneth Starr's investigation, threatened with 27 years for having been accused of signing a false affidavit and other alleged crimes - or worse, me taking my own life." http://nyti.ms/2rNf5am

MICHAEL WOLFF in The Hollywood Reporter, "at Roger Ailes' Funeral: Loyalists Celebrate in an 'Act of Defiance'": "If the liberal media saw Ailes as a disgraced and broken man ... his funeral was meant to be an act of defiance. Without apology, it was a celebration of husband, father, friend, employer, political figure, media titan, TV impresario and, hardly least of all, man of many provocations. ... Most of all the villains were the Murdochs: Rupert Murdoch, who had hired Ailes in 1996, and his sons, James and Lachlan, who had assumed executive authority two years ago. Ailes had given the Murdoch family 20 years and built them a $30 billion company, and, in the opinion of family, friends and his confidants at Fox, had been sacrificed by them when it suited their purposes. On the day Ailes died, Rupert Murdoch had been advised that a condolence call to Ailes' wife would not be well received. ...

"The funeral two days later was held at Saint Edwards Roman Catholic Church in Palm Beach - the church where Rose Kennedy attended mass every morning when she was at her winter home. Ethel Kennedy, the wife of Robert F. Kennedy, attended the Ailes' service with her son Douglas Kennedy, a long-time Fox News reporter. Along with Limbaugh and Kennedy were Sean Hannity, Laura Ingraham, Bill Hemmer, Kimberly Guilfoyle and Liz Trotta. There was, too, Dennis Kucinich, the wild card Democratic presidential candidate whom Ailes had befriended, and Pat Caddell, the rogue Democratic political operative who had long bonded with Ailes as rogue Republican operative." http://bit.ly/2qP1kuE

****** **A message from the Coalition for Affordable Prescription Drugs (CAPD)** As list prices for brand drugs continue to rise, employers are partnering with PBMs to keep drug costs under control. In fact, every dollar an employer invests in a PBM service returns six dollars in savings. Learn more at www.affordableprescriptiondrugs.org. ******

DEMOCRATIC UNITY? -- "Bernie backers rage over Calif. Democratic Party chair race," by California Playbooker Carla Marinucci in San Francisco: "Supporters of the losing candidate in a bitterly disputed election to serve as chair of the California Democratic Party say they'll begin a detailed audit of the votes on Monday. The move comes after protests, allegations of ballot stuffing and bitter disputes after votes at a weekend party convention. Longtime party operative Eric Bauman won the chairmanship of the California Democratic Party over the weekend - but his victory was marred by complaints of ballot-stuffing and floor protests. Backers of the Kimberly Ellis, a favorite of the 'Berniecrat,' activist wing of the party - say efforts to scrutinize the votes will begin immediately." http://politi.co/2qRdotk ... ***Subscribe to California Playbook*** http://politi.co/2bLvcPl

AT THE DEPT. OF EDUCATION -- "DeVos says Washington will not mandate 'school choice'," by Caitlin Emma: "Education Secretary Betsy DeVos promised Monday night that the Trump administration would propose 'the most ambitious expansion of education choice in our nation's history,' but said that states, rather than Washington, D.C., would make the decisions. 'When it comes to education, no solution, not even ones we like, should be dictated or run from Washington, D.C.,' she said. DeVos, though, offered scant details about the Trump administration's vision for school

choice." http://politi.co/2rNTuP2

DATA DU JOUR -- The Harvard Graduating Class of 2017 by the numbers," by Harvard Crimson's Mariel A. Klein: "A fifth of surveyed seniors reported that the 2016 election results changed their postgraduate career plans in some way. Of those who said the election results changed their plans, 12 percent said they took a job in the public sector instead of the private sector. Another 10 percent reported that they now hope to run for public office. ... Among those who said the election changed their plans, 37 percent said they had been considering jobs in the federal government but decided against pursuing one." http://bit.ly/2q5a4xD

HISTORY LESSON -- "That Time the Soviets Bugged Congress, and Other Spy Tales: Allowing a photographer from the Russian state media into the Oval Office was an act of breathtaking recklessness," by Calder Walton in POLITICO Magazine: "During a private meeting [with the Russians] in the Oval Office earlier this month, President Donald Trump ... [barred] U.S. reporters and photographers ... but bizarrely, a photographer from the Russian state-run media agency, TASS, was admitted. ... [T]hough it may seem like a storyline from The Americans, fears that the TASS photographer may have planted an electronic monitoring device in the Oval Office are not as far-fetched as they first seem. In fact, the Kremlin is a past master of planting hidden listening devices in America's most sensitive government buildings. During the Cold War, Soviet intelligence used TASS as cover for espionage, and in one operation, used it to plant a bug at the center of Capitol Hill." http://politi.co/2qOURQn

MEDIWATCH -- "Judge won't move libel suit against BuzzFeed over Trump dossier," by Josh Gerstein: "A federal judge has turned down BuzzFeed's request to move a libel suit over its publication of a dossier contained unverified allegations against President Donald Trump. BuzzFeed and its editor-in-chief Ben Smith asked that the case be relocated to New York City, but Miami-based U.S. District Court Judge Ursula Ungaro issued a ruling Monday refusing to give up the case filed by Russian tech executive and entrepreneur Aleksej Gubarev." http://politi.co/2qbYY5V

-- After JAMES SUROWIECKI left The New Yorker in March, **ADAM DAVIDSON** and **SHEELAH KOLHATKAR** are now writing The Financial Page column in his place, on a rotating basis. Davidson is a staff writer for the magazine and previously was the "On Money" columnist and a contributing writer for the N.Y. Times Magazine and co-founded and co-hosted NPR's "Planet Money." Kolhatkar, author of "Black Edge: Inside Information, Dirty Money and the Quest to Bring Down the Most Wanted Man on Wall Street," is also a staff writer at the magazine and previously was features editor and national correspondent for Bloomberg Businessweek.

-- Washington Examiner is launching "Trump's America," a four-year long reporting project that will cover the Trump presidency with long-form reporting in nine counties that helped deliver the election to Trump. Daniel Allott, deputy commentary editor for the Examiner, and his twin brother, documentary filmmaker Jordan Allott, will report from these counties regularly during the Trump presidency. http://bit.ly/2qbkszK

Playbookers

http://bit.ly/2qQq03N

-- James Hewitt, senior director at strategic comms firm Dezenhall Resources and an RNC alum, got engaged to **Cara Read** of Bloomberg Government. He popped the question over champagne and Cabernet Sauvignon in Prague. ***Pic*** http://politi.co/2qPcWOu

WELCOME TO THE WORLD - AARON BLAKE, senior political reporter for The Fix at WaPo and **DANIELLE BLAKE,** associate VP for public affairs at AdvaMed, email friends and family: "Wanted to let you know that Aria Marie Blake arrived [Monday] morning at 4:41 a.m., 7 hours before her scheduled c-section (apparently already making her own decisions). She weighed in at 7 lbs and 2 oz, 20.5 inches long. We are totally smitten, as is big brother Grayson." ***Pics*** http://politi.co/2q59lqN ...

http://politi.co/2qbtVqI

BIRTHWEEK (was yesterday): Kerry Rom, director of media affairs at the NRCC and a Jeb and Chamber of Commerce alum (hat tip: Emily Benavides)

BIRTHDAY OF THE DAY: WaPo's **Dana Priest,** Pulitzer Prize winner and the pride of Canoga Park, Calif. How she's celebrating: "In the morning, I'll celebrate my birthday by trying to convince a group of students to get involved in helping journalists imprisoned overseas, my newish passion. Then I'll take a horseback riding lesson as a gift to myself. I'll have dinner in our backyard garden with friends and family." Read her Playbook Plus Q&A: http://politi.co/2qfl1HX

BIRTHDAYS: Melanie Fonder Kaye (hat tip: Kelley McCormick) ... William Minor, partner at DLA Piper, is 5-0 (h/t wife Christine Enemark) ... Ilyas Kirmani, senior producer at NBC Nightly News ... ABC News' Mary Bruce (h/t Rachel Adler) ... NBC's Danielle Dellorto, a CNN alum ... Politico's Matt Nussbaum ... Tom Heinemann, VP of federal gov't affairs at the Manufactured Housing Institute, and bro-in-law of Carrie Budoff Brown ... Redeemer Arlington ... Blake Rollins ... Shekar Narasimhan ... CNN's Nate McDermott (h/t K File crew) ... Adam Levy, senior producer at CNN ... Poynter alum Mallary Tenore Tarpley ... devoted Playbooker Megan McKinley, of Sen. Rubio's office, is 23 (h/t Libby Callaway) ... Jacob Gladysz, a CSIS alum and recent graduate of Georgetown University, is 22 (h/t Bill Schuette) ...

... Anna Gohmann of Comcast/NBC Universal ... Jerry H. Goldfeder of Stroock & Stroock & Lavan LLP ... Helen Smith (h/t Megan Apper) ... Rep. Dina Titus (D-Nev.) is 67 ... Adrienne Cisneros-Selekman ... Rachel MacKnight ... Jorge Martinez ... Casey Greenfield ... Entergy's Nick Culp ... Adrienne Cisneros-Selekman ... Rob Keast ... USA Today's Cameron Smith ... Brian Bakst of Minnesota Public Radio News and an AP alum ... Alan Auglis ... John Gonzalez ... Lucy Cook ... Mark Sullivan ... Vivian Graubard ... Georgiana Bloom ... Reuters' Katherina Lemus ... Connie Sammarco ... chess grandmaster Anatoly Karpov is 66 ... Drew Carey is 59 ... "Jeopardy!" champ Ken Jennings is 43 (h/ts AP)

****** **A message from the Coalition for Affordable Prescription Drugs (CAPD)** One in two Americans rely on their employers to provide health care benefits. So, employers partner with PBMs to provide access to effective medications at the most affordable price. PBMs drive savings in part by using clinical expertise to identify generic alternatives that achieve the same health outcomes for a lower price. With generics accounting for 89 percent of prescriptions filled in 2015, but only 27 percent of drug costs, that represents a savings of $227 billion across the U.S. health care system in just one year. Learn more at www.affordableprescriptiondrugs.org. ******

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To: Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
From: Morning Media
Sent: Thur 11/9/2017 10:36:13 AM
Subject: Morning Media: DOJ urging CNN sale raises alarms -- Chuck Todd takes long view of press criticism -- Breitbart revisits 2016 -- Clinton guest-edits Teen Vogue -- Gorka joins Fox

By Michael Calderone | 11/09/2017 05:35 AM EDT

THE "FAKE NEWS" TAUNTS HAVE ALWAYS BEEN A SIDESHOW to a much bigger press freedom threat - that President Donald Trump, taking a page from authoritarian rulers, would try use government power to punish perceived adversaries in the news media.

-- Trump has publicly mused about opening up libel laws to make it easier to sue news organizations and recently suggested revoking broadcast licenses in response to unflattering coverage. A senior administration official told the New York Times in July that White House advisers had discussed the pending merger between CNN parent company Time Warner and AT&T as a way to gain leverage on the cable news channel.

-- So it's alarming that Trump's Justice Department is reportedly pressuring AT&T to divest either Turner Broadcasting (which includes CNN) or DirecTV in order to complete the merger, a demand widely perceived as stemming from the president's animus toward CNN. A source with direct knowledge of the talks told The Financial Times that "it's all about CNN." Network staffers also see political pressure, rather than legitimate antitrust concerns, behind the DOJ's move. "There's a contingent here that felt like, you have a litigious, vindictive commander in chief with the opportunity to take a poke at a network he believes covers him unfairly," one told Vanity Fair. "How did we think this is gonna end? It's outrageous."

-- "The only reason you would divest CNN would be to kowtow to the president because he doesn't like the coverage," one source told POLITICO. "It would send a chilling message to every news organization in the country."

Good morning and welcome to Morning Media. Please send tips to mcalderone@politico.com and @mlcalderone. Jason Schwartz (@JasonSchwartz) and Daniel Lippman (@dlippman) contributed to the newsletter. Archives. Subscribe.

SOUND BITES

"The burden of proof is on the Justice Department to establish that there is no political interference in their Antitrust Division." [Brian Schatz]

"Like firing FBI director, legitimacy of forcing sale of CNN depends on motive. In both cases, the appearance of reprisal is strong." [David Frum]

"This is 101% Trump's personal vendetta against @CNN and authoritarianism. @GOP, are you really gonna let this stand?" [Amy Siskind]

"Russia feels closer than ever." [Julia Ioffe]

CHUCK TODD WOULD RATHER PEOPLE BE "HATE-WATCHING" Sunday stalwart "Meet the Press" than not watching at all. In today's fractured political climate, and amid broad distrust of the press, Todd says he finds such viewers "oddly engaged" even if "in a disapproving way." So getting them to still tune in every week, he said, provides "an opportunity to sort of win trust and credibility back."

-- Regardless of who's watching, Todd has reasons to be pleased with his audience these days, as "Meet the Press," which had been slumping in the ratings when he took the helm in 2014, ranked 1st this past Sunday in total viewers and has topped the key age 25-54 demographic for 16 weeks. It's also a celebratory time at "Meet the Press," which turned 70 this week, continuing its reign as the longest-running television show. Todd and company are being feted tonight at the Newseum, with the first-ever "Meet the Press" film festival kicking off Monday. In an interview with POLITICO, Todd suggested taking a long view when it comes to criticism of the press during a particularly heated political moment.

-- "I view this as the Iraq war," Todd said. "We're going to be judged in five years how we covered this administration ... Day to day, plenty of journalists felt good, perhaps, in how they were covering the Iraq war. Five years later it looked horrendous, the decisions that were made." John Reiss, who serves as executive producer on "Meet the Press" and the Todd-hosted "MTP Daily," said they hear criticism from both supporters and detractors of the president and he echoed Todd's point that they'll "get the final score on how well we've done for a few years."

-- In the near term, both men said they hope Trump, who has yet to appear on "Meet the Press" since becoming president, will sit down for an interview. "We always feel we're about two or three weeks away," said Reiss, adding that be believes "in the end he wants to talk to us." Though Trump primarily retreats to friendly hosts on Fox, Todd said he believes the president "doesn't fear any interview" and has been more constrained by staff since entering the White House. "I think it's not an accident that during the campaign, when there were fewer people involved in deciding," he said, "when he was the decision-maker on what TV to do, he did a lot of TV."

WASHINGTON POST LAUNCHES 'COUNTERPOINT': The paper is rolling out a new module today that recommends an opinion piece with a different perspective than the one you're currently reading. "Our Opinions section provides robust coverage of topics from a variety of viewpoints, and we're excited to make the diversity of this content more prominent for our readers," editorial page editor Fred Hiatt said in a statement. "This is one way we can present a range of views that can help our audience be more informed and that hopefully will encourage dialogue."

CONSERVATIVE MEDIA QUIET ON VIRGINIA ELECTION: POLITICO's Jason Schwartz looks at how Fox News and conservative news sites seemed to downplay the Democratic gubernatorial win in Virginia, the most-watched 2017 election race. Breitbart editor-in-chief Alex Marlow said his site "did extremely robust coverage" on Tuesday night, but had always opted to lead Wednesday with a piece revisiting the 2016 election night. "We'd probably been working on that particular story for two or three days," he said. "We had planned for close

to a week, focusing on November the eighth and treating it as the high holy day in the America First movement that it is."

BREITBART LOOKS BACK: The populist, nationalist site departed from some other election-night oral histories by tapping its own staff's recollections. Several Breitbart staffers described how they - as opposed to many others in the media - believed Trump would win, citing the enthusiasm and energy on the campaign trail, and also fondly recalled the big night.

-- "At 2:30 a.m., the crowd was getting impatient while watching the Fox News reports live from Trump campaign party," recalled White House reporter Charlie Spiering. "Everyone in the room turned around and started shouting at the anchor, 'Call it! Call it! Call it!' Some saw on their phones that the Associated Press had called Pennsylvania for Trump, and they demanded that the cable networks deliver the verdict. At 2:40 a.m., Fox News made it official. The exhausted crowd roared when Trump went onstage with all of his campaign team. It was over."

FLASHBACK: I was also at Trump's victory party at the Hilton, amid the cheering supporters and blaring Fox News. This is what I wrote around 2:30 a.m. on Nov. 9, 2016: "Donald Trump's Victory Challenges The Power Of The Press."

FOX COMPLETES TRUMP TRANSFORMATION: Fox News hosts sometimes sparred with candidate Donald Trump. But hardcore supporter Laura Ingraham's ascension to her new 10 p.m. show last week marked a capstone in the yearlong remaking of the network in the Trump's image - and signaled that Fox fears increasing competition on the right, writes POLITICO's Jason Schwartz.

-- "I've read the stories about how the Murdochs have soured on Donald Trump, but you would not know it from their programming decisions," said Charlie Sykes, the longtime conservative radio host and MSNBC contributor. "It certainly reflects the business model of conservative media right now. Pro-Trump viewers want a safe space. They want a reliable outlet that will defend the president and attack his critics and Fox has apparently decided that it's going to give them that."

-- Even Chris Ruddy, the CEO of rival conservative platform Newsmax and a Trump ally, said he has been taken aback by Fox hosts' unwillingness to criticize the president. "Newsmax is very supportive of the president, but we also will publish things that are critical of him time to time," Ruddy said. "Fox seems to have decided to become very closely aligned, which seems unnatural and it doesn't seem consistent." He added: "It's just bizarre and I think they lose their credibility as a news organization."

TRUMP FAN'S MEDIA DIET: POLITICO's Michael Kruse visited Trump voters in Johnstown, Pennsylvania, a depressed former steel town, to inquire about their choice a year back. One voter, Joey Del Signore, described Trump as "probably the most diligent, hardest-working president we've ever had in our lifetimes." He continued: "It's not like he sleeps in till noon and goes golfing every weekend, like the last president did."

-- Kruse pointed out to Del Signore that Trump has actually golfed more than former President

Barack Obama (and overall has spent far more time at leisure than his predecessor). So where does Del Signore get his information? "'Ninety-nine percent of the time I watch Fox," he said. "Sometimes I'll be sitting there listening to all this Fox stuff, and I'll say, 'Maybe they aren't right, maybe I'll flip to CNN' - but every time I've found that Fox has been correct, and CNN is definitely fake news."

"YOUTUBE'S RAPID RESPONSE PARTISANS": The Times' Kevin Roose tackles a disturbing trend online in the wake of tragedy. "YouTube has long been a haven for slapdash political punditry, but in recent months, a certain type of hyper-prolific conspiracist has emerged as a dominant force," he writes. "By reacting quickly and voluminously to breaking news, these rapid-response pundits - the YouTube equivalent of talk radio shock-jocks - have successfully climbed the site's search results, and exposed legions of viewers to their far-fetched theories."

HILLARY CLINTON GUEST-EDITS TEEN VOGUE: Elaine Welteroth, the magazine's editor-in-chief, writes: "This issue explores what we can all learn from her impact, her style, and her grace under fire. Some will say it's too partisan, too political, too retrospective, too 'echo-chamber-y.' This issue isn't for them. It was designed for the millions who acknowledge that until women, girls, people of color, members of the LGBTQ community, immigrants, and the economically disadvantaged are on an equal playing field, we must hold space for these critical conversations."

WSJ REPORTERS WIN DIRKSEN: James V. Grimaldi and Michelle Hackman have won the prestigious congressional reporting award from the National Press Foundation. Per the judges: "Their investigation revealed that Rep. Tom Price, then the nominee to be HHS secretary, had traded in health stocks while pushing legislation that could affect those stocks. Reverberations from their story dominated Price's confirmation hearings and effectively put him in the crosshairs during his brief tenure at HHS."

WATCH: The first trailer for "The Post," the Pentagon Papers-inspired film directed by Steve Spielberg, is now online. The highly anticipated film, starring Tom Hanks as legendary editor Ben Bradlee and Meryl Streep as Katharine Graham, focuses on the Washington Post's role in publishing the Pentagon Papers and its battle with the Nixon administration prior to Watergate.

-- Spielberg's framing of events has rankled some journalists given that the New York Times, and not the Post, actually broke the Pentagon Papers. Max Frankel, the Times Washington bureau chief at the time, told the Columbia Journalism Review in May that it was a "stupid project." The release of the trailer also sparked some Twitter debate, with Gizmodo CEO Raju Narisetti saying the film "overlooks the truth" by taking such a Post-centric view. "It's a movie," responded the Post's Paul Farhi. "So, next time the @nytimes has two characters as compelling as Kay Graham and Ben Bradlee, Spielberg can make THAT movie."

TODAY: AT&T CEO Randall Stephenson, who said Wednesday that he "never offered to sell CNN and have no intention of doing so," will be appearing at the DealBook Conference. Safe to say the Time Warner deal will come up.

REVOLVING DOOR

Seb Gorka, who left the Trump White House in August, has joined Fox News as a national security analyst.

A.J. Chavar, most recently a video journalist at the New York Times, is joining Vox's video team as a senior producer for news.

Rachel Nagler, who has spent six years leading communications for Bloomberg Businessweek, is moving to Bloomberg Philanthropies.

Errin Haines Whack, who has worked in the AP's Philadelphia newsroom since 2015, has been named race and ethnicity writer.

EXTRAS

-- ProPublica received 239 pitches over the past month for local investigative journalism projects.

-- The Freedom of the Press Foundation is helping preserve Gothamist and DNAinfo archives.

-- On Poynter, David Beard addressed how newsrooms can better cover immigration.

-- BuzzFeed's Steven Perlberg reports on James O'Keefe's legal battle with his insurance company.

-- Daily Beast's Kevin Poulsen reports how Kremlin-backed sleeper accounts stormed Twitter on election night 2016 in support of Trump.

-- InfoWars has copied more than 1,000 RT articles to its site without permission, reports BuzzFeed's Jane Lytvynenko.

-- And a nice Karen K. Ho profile of Jay Caspian Kang in the Columbia Journalism Review.

To view online:
http://www.politico.com/media/tipsheets/morning-media/2017/11/09/doj-urging-cnn-sale-causes-alarm-chuck-todd-takes-long-view-of-press-criticism-breitbart-revisits-2016-clinton-guest-edits-teen-vogue-001376

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Energy and Climate Report

June 16, 2017 - Number 116

News

Air Pollution

Group Challenges Tesoro's California Refinery Expansion

Legal claims that tied up a refinery modernization project in Northern California for at least six years could stall Tesoro Corp.'s plan to upgrade and integrate two Los Angeles-area refineries.

Climate Change

Canada Says it Will Withhold Funds if Provinces Don't Join Climate Change Plan

Canada gave holdout provinces Saskatchewan and Manitoba until year's end to join the country's climate change framework or forfeit federal funds that would go toward climate change mitigation efforts.

Climate Policy

Green Bond Growth Unruffled by U.S. Paris Exit, EIB Says

Green bond sales by borrowers including Apple Inc. show the U.S. pullout from the Paris climate accord has not slowed a market that almost doubled last year, the European Investment Bank's capital markets chief said.

EPA

Pruitt Schedule Peppered With Energy Company Meetings

Frequent meetings with energy company executives marked EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt's first six weeks in office, including a sit-down with a political benefactor of the former Oklahoma attorney general, his newly released schedule shows.

Energy

Canadian Oil-Sands Production Expected to Grow Rapidly

Canada's oil-sands will increase production rapidly in the next three years, ranking only behind U.S. shale as the biggest contributor to global supply growth.

General Policy

Week Ahead: It's Perry's Turn in the Budget-Defense Barrel

Energy Secretary Rick Perry is expected to face grilling from Congress similar to what EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt received about proposed steep cuts to his agency's fiscal 2018 budget—one of numerous energy and environment events during the week of June 19.

Oceans

Canada Seeks Expedited Power to Protect Ocean Zones

Canada wants the authority to quickly declare sensitive marine environments temporarily off-

limits to oil and gas production without going through the process of obtaining permanent protection status, which can take upwards of a decade.

Oil Spills

Canadian National Railway Fined for 2015 Fuel Spill

Canadian National Railway Co. was fined C$2.5 million ($1.9 million) for a 2015 incident when it discharged diesel fuel into the North Saskatchewan River.

Renewable Energy

Merkel Cabinet Opens German Clean Power Auctions to EU Neighbors

Chancellor Angela Merkel's Cabinet approved a plan to allow companies in nations neighboring Germany to compete in clean power auctions.

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Energy and Climate Report

To: Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
From: InsideEPA/climate
Sent: Fri 6/2/2017 12:18:27 AM
Subject: Today on Climate Beat

June 1, 2017

Today on Climate Beat . . .

. . . we looked at President Donald Trump's announcement that he intends to leave the Paris climate agreement, gathering reaction from several sources including former President Barack Obama, who helped negotiate and shepherd the deal into force during his tenure.

Over on the main site, we had much more reaction from a range of other groups, as well as a story with Trump's remarks from his announcement. And we also looked at the president's offer to "renegotiate" the deal and possibly stay in.

And our news roundup offered a good preview to all of the day's action.

Outside of Paris, the White House released an ethics waiver for special assistant to the president Michael Catanzaro, a former energy lobbyist, that will allow him to advise Trump and others in the administration on issues on which he lobbied during his time in the private sector just before coming to the White House.

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To: Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
From: POLITICO Pro Energy Whiteboard
Sent: Mon 6/19/2017 4:30:32 PM
Subject: Pruitt, utility CEOs to discuss Clean Power Plan today

By Alex Guillén and Darius Dixon

06/19/2017 12:27 PM EDT

EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt is scheduled to meet today with top electric industry executives to discuss the rollback of the agency's Clean Power Plan, according to four industry sources.

The meeting is scheduled to start at 1 p.m. at EPA headquarters. EPA did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

At least 10 utility CEOs are expected to be there, according to a list of confirmed attendees viewed by POLITICO. They include Entergy's Leo Denault, Duke's Lynn Good, AEP's Nick Akins, DTE's Gerry Anderson, Ameren's Warner Baxter, Exelon's Chris Crane, PNM's Pat Vincent-Collawn, Dominion's Tom Farrell, Xcel's Ben Fowke and Oklahoma Gas Electric's Sean Trauschke. Municipals power companies and electric coops have also been invited, the sources said.

Southern Co. CEO Tom Fanning was invited, a source said, but Fanning is scheduled to speak at the Mid-American Regulatory Conference in Chicago this afternoon.

While the meeting is expected to focus on the Obama-era power plant emissions rule, one of the sources said other energy issues may come up.

WHAT'S NEXT: EPA's proposal for dealing with the Clean Power Plan is currently under review at the White House Office of Management and Budget. It is unclear whether EPA will propose a full repeal of the rule before potentially replacing it, or if the agency will instead seek to drastically scale it back through a new rulemaking.

Esther Whieldon contributed to this report.

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Subject: [SPAM] May 25 -- Daily Environment Report - Afternoon Briefing

Daily Environment Report

Afternoon Briefing - Your Preview of Today's News

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White House Reviewing Plan to Pause Methane Rule

Posted May 25, 2017, 10:11 A.M. ET

By David Schultz

The White House is reviewing an EPA plan to pause implementation of an Obama administration rule designed to limit methane emissions from oil and gas wells, according to the Office of Management and Budget website.

EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt announced last month that he wanted to pause the standards before June, when a new set of compliance deadlines on the oil and gas industry would take effect. The regulation, one of the centerpieces of the Obama administration's climate policy, requires operators of new or modified wells to significantly boost their monitoring for leaking methane, a potent greenhouse gas.

The Trump administration has moved to halt implementation of many Obama-era environmental regulations, including regulations on methane emissions from landfills.

High Cost of Smart Water Meters Slows Adoption by Utilities

Posted May 25, 2017, 11:30 A.M. ET

By Amena H. Saiyid

In a world of smart phones, smart cars, and smart appliances, drinking water utilities are striving to keep pace, installing smart meters that send real-time data about usage, leakage, and water quality.

The migration has been slow, however, mainly because of their high cost, according to the head of DC Water, the utility serving the nation's capital.

The cost of installing a smart meter is a "heavy lift no matter what the size of the utility," George Hawkins, DC Water's chief executive officer and general manager, told Bloomberg BNA.

On average, a regular analog meter would cost $25. The average cost of installing a smart meter at each house in the nation's capital is coming out to be $180, according to DC Water, which distributes drinking water and collects and treats wastewater for more than 672,000 residents and 17.8 million annual visitors in the District of Columbia.

Only about 20 percent of U.S. drinking water utilities have adopted the new technology, while about 60 percent of the country's electric utilities use digitized smart meters, according to a recent report by the Energy & Utilities practice at business consultants West Monroe Partners.

Cost as Barrier

The report found that two thirds of the 700 surveyed water utilities cite cost as a barrier to implementing smart meter technologies, especially among small- to mid-sized utilities. A smart meter can cost as much as seven times as much as the regular, analog, spinning meter.

A "smart," or advanced, meter is a vital part of water infrastructure that can provide a remote and constant two-way data link between utilities, meters and consumers. It does so by measuring water consumption or pressure or leaks and transmit that data digitally at regular intervals to the the utility control room. It is usually installed on the utility's service line between a homeowner's property line and the public domain.

DC water had to take some of their employees away from their regular jobs to help with installing and configuring the utility's network to integrate smart metering.

"We can afford to take people offline and spread our costs, but not all utilities can afford to do that," Hawkins said.

A smart meter incorporates transmitters and fixed "nodes" around the city that collect data and relay it to the utility, Hawkins said. The metering system uses software to receive and analyze the data, and staff has to be trained to interpret the data for day-to-day decisions, he said.

Fragmented Nature of Industry

Other factors inhibiting adoption of smart meters is the fragmented nature of the drinking water utility industry compared to the consolidated electric utility sector, Peter Mulvaney, senior manager for West Monroe's Energy and Utilities who specializes in delivering water management services, told Bloomberg BNA.

Mulvaney said 50,000 water utilities provide water service compared to the 3,000 electric utilities that distribute power.

"Fragmentation makes market penetration very difficult because each utility is responsible for making the investment," Mulvaney said, making the case for regional water utilities that would be able to pool resources and data.

Hawkins agrees with Mulvaney. He said the region's utilities could benefit from pooling data they receive from their customers in an attempt to make operations better.

Cautious Industry

Water utilities are risk-averse and tend to err on the conservative side because they can't afford to cause a public health crisis by delivering water that is unsafe, according to Mulvaney.

"Water utilities are late to the game" compared to electric utilities, Mulvaney said.

West Monroe found that most water utilities, including DC Water, are using smart meters to detect leakage in addition to providing billing services based on water consumption. Smart meters also are being used to detect pressure variations, which can indicate a problem in the pipes.

DC Water is among the nation's water utilities that have been quick to adopt technologies that will improve its capability to respond remotely and immediately to problems with water treatment and delivery, Hawkins said.

In March, the utility announced plans to replace the city's 89,000 meters over the 18 months with a new version of meters that detect leakage if the consumption rate rises suddenly, utility spokesman Vincent Morris told Bloomberg BNA.

Improved Efficiency

Morris said the new meters, which will be accompanied by a small transponder, will yield multiple benefits for the utility and the consumer. The new meters will transmit the information to six data nodes that the utility has installed around the city that in turn will relay it to the control room at the utility.

"We can remotely respond to any data of leakage by turning off the water delivery," Hawkins said.

Related to smart meters is another device that the utility is planning to test on its sewer systems. This technology, which Xylem Inc. has developed, would allow the utility to shut down the pumps if it detects a problem.

Mulvaney sees smart meters as the way to make delivery and treatment of water more efficient and reliable.

"If we only use these meters for billing purposes then its use is very limited, but we can use this infrastructure to provide us with a picture of the watershed," Mulvaney said. "We not only find out about the movement of water through the ground, but also through the pipes."

The Bees Are Back in Town, Sort of

Posted May 25, 2017, 9:22 A.M. ET

By Tiffany Stecker

Beekeepers across the country lost one-third of their honeybee colonies over the past year, marking an improvement from a record high four years ago, but still a troubling trend for the sector.

The Bee Informed Partnership, a collaboration between government research agencies and universities, released its yearly honeybee colony loss survey May 25. Beekeepers lost about 33.2 percent of colonies between April 2016 and March 2017, a notable decrease from the 2012-2013 peak of 45 percent. It is the second-lowest rate of colony loss in seven years.

About 21.1 percent of colonies were lost over winter, an improvement of about 5.8 percentage points over the previous year and below the 10-year average. Summer losses were 18.1 percent, a decrease from 23.6 percent loss last year.

Despite Losses, Honey Volumes Are Up

While the lower loss numbers are welcome news, the fact that beekeepers lost one in three colonies last year is worrisome, Bee Informed Partnership Director Dennis vanEngelsdorp said.

"It's gone from horrible to bad," vanEngelsdorp, an entomology professor at the University of Maryland, told Bloomberg BNA. Beekeepers last year likely benefited from fewer Varroa mites—bugs that transmit diseases to bees—the result of amenable weather and the Environmental Protection Agency's work to approve products to kill mites.

Public and private efforts to plant pollen-rich vegetation near commercial crops has also helped improve nutrition to bees, vanEngelsdorp said. Conversion of grasslands and prairie to cropland over the last several decades is one of the reasons why bee health has declined, scientists say. Use of pesticides and mite infestations are other factors.

Despite the high reported loss, honey production has fared well. The Agriculture Department's National Agricultural Statistics Service reported in March that honey volumes are up 3 percent for commercial beekeepers owning five or more colonies, and 6 percent for beekeepers owning less than five colonies. The number of colonies also increased by about 4 percent for each group.

Now in its 11th year, the annual survey serves as a pulse for measuring the bee health as concern over pollinators remains high. Reports of an unusual phenomenon known as colony collapse disorder around 2006 triggered worries that honeybees—whose work carrying pollen between crops is valued between $15 billion and $20 billion—could die out.

USDA Survey Out Aug. 1

Beekeepers are struggling to stay in businesses with the high losses, Michele Colopy, program director for the Pollinator Stewardship Council, told Bloomberg BNA.

"Would you like to work in a sector where you lost 33 percent of your livelihood every year?" Colopy said. "I think the answer would be 'Dear god, no!'"

Nearly 5,000 beekeepers responded to the survey, representing only about 13 percent of the country's roughly 2.8 million managed honey producing colonies. USDA will release its own bee colony loss survey Aug. 1. Respondents will include more than 9,000 operations of both large and small-scale commercial beekeepers.

The two surveys are best read together for a more comprehensive understanding of honey bee health in the United States, Colopy said.

In 2015, the Obama administration laid out a sweeping plan across agencies to help pollinators, which include honeybees but also native insects, birds and bats. As part of the effort to boost pollinator health, the EPA is reviewing the approvals of neonicotinoid pesticides—insecticides that can become present in pollen and affect bees. The agency also finalized a policy in January that sets limits for pesticide spraying when honeybees are present.

Colony collapse disorder was described as a phenomenon in which worker bees flee their hives en masse. Entomologists have not seen indicators of "classic" colony collapse disorder for several years, vanEngelsdorp said. Now, beekeepers are more likely to find dead bees in their hive than an empty hive.

"We don't see much CCD at all," he said. "But we continue to see high levels of loss."

Group of Exxon Investors to Back Climate Change Plan Board Opposes

Posted May 25, 2017, 02:02 P.M. ET

By Emily Chasan

Almost 90 Exxon Mobil Corp. investors plan to back a proposal that would pressure the company to bolster its disclosure of climate change risks and opportunities.

The shareholders include the New York state and city pension funds and the California Public Employees' Retirement System, according to data compiled by investor advocacy group Ceres. Vanguard Group is considering voting for the proposal, Glenn Booraem, the firm's investment stewardship officer, said in a May 25 email.

The proposal will be taken up at Exxon's annual meeting on May 31 in Dallas.

Environmentally focused shareholders are stepping up efforts to pressure companies on climate issues.

A similar proposal at Exxon last year received about 38 percent support, the highest ever for a climate vote at the company. Comparable initiatives at Occidental Petroleum Corp. and PPL Corp. received majority support over management objections. BlackRock Inc., the world's largest asset manager, supported the proposal at Occidental.

BlackRock hasn't yet decided on its Exxon vote, Zach Oleksiuk, head of Americas for BlackRock Investment Stewardship, said in an email May 25.

Exxon opposes the proposal. Scott Silvestri, an Exxon spokesman, declined to comment further.

The shareholder move seeks to push Exxon to publish an annual assessment on how the 2 degree Celsius global warming reduction target set by the Paris Agreement will affect its portfolio long term.

Exxon is "really out of step with their peers around the world," said Sue Reid, vice president of climate and energy at Ceres.

Proxy advisory firms Institutional Shareholder Services and Glass Lewis & Co. are recommending shareholders override management and support the proposal.

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SC Johnson to Expand Skin Allergen Disclosures in Products

Posted May 25, 2017, 8:00 A.M. ET

By Stephen Joyce

A leading U.S. manufacturer of household cleaning products announced it will voluntarily disclose the presence of 368 potential skin allergens in its goods, illustrating an ongoing industry trend.

SC Johnson & Son Inc., a privately held company based in Racine, Wis., previously had decided to disclose 26 possible allergenic substances as required by a 1999 European Union opinion, but its May 25 decision expands the company's disclosure regime to include hundreds of skin allergens present in its products. The disclosures will appear on a company website but not on any of its product labeling.

The announcement is part of an industry trend to enhance disclosure regimes despite no regulatory or statutory obligation to do so. No federal agency and only a few states have contemplated requiring such disclosures, but Kelly Semrau, SC Johnson's senior vice president of corporate affairs, and others said companies manufacturing personal-care and household-cleaning products will continue to expand disclosure regimes to build trust and brand loyalty with consumers.

Other companies, including Unilever NV, have announced their own disclosure targets. Some, such as Unilever subsidiary Seventh Generation Inc., that tout products as containing natural ingredients may feel increasing pressure to increase their disclosures voluntarily.

Earning Consumer Trust

SC Johnson will disclose the presence of potential natural and synthetic allergens in its products when their concentration levels are at or above 0.01 percent, the same standard required by the European Union opinion. While that concentration likely won't cause an allergic reaction in most rinse-off products, the company decided to adopt the standard as it tries to boost its transparency efforts, Semrau said.

"Ultimately, this is about earning the trust of all the people who buy our products," Fisk Johnson, SC Johnson chairman and chief executive officer, told Bloomberg BNA. "Transparency is something we've been working on for quite some time, and we think being transparent about the ingredients that go into our products, the allergens that are in them, I think helps earn the trust of people."

The company is planning to list the ingredients by individual product beginning in 2018, Semrau said.

Chemicals on the EU list of 26 allergens include benzyl alcohol, citronellol, farnesol, hydroxycitronellal, linalool, and oakmoss extract.

Government Action

Few state laws or regulations requiring the chemical disclosures in household consumer products have been enacted at the state level. In California, however, state Sen. Ricardo Lara (D) introduced a bill (SB-258) Feb. 8 that would require manufacturers of cleaning products produced or sold in California to disclose on its label each ingredient contained in the product. The state Senate Appropriations Committee is scheduled to hold a hearing on the legislation May 25.

New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo (D) April 25 proposed regulations requiring manufacturers of cleaning products sold in New York to disclose the ingredients of their products. Comments on the proposal's disclosure certification form are due June 14.

At the federal level, lawmakers considered adding chemical disclosure requirements to the Toxic Substances Control Act amendments of 2016 (Pub. L. No: 114-182), but ultimately they were not included in the final version.

Voluntary Push

The absence of state or federal mandates, however, will not slow down the push by companies to enhance their disclosure regimes, several people who follow the issue said.

"There is movement across different industries to increase transparency, not as much as cleaning products as we've seen in personal care perhaps," Nneka Leiba, deputy director of research at the Environmental Working Group, told Bloomberg BNA.

Johnson said any resulting state or federal regulation probably won't affect his company because it plans to continue pushing for voluntarily disclosures that will be well ahead of any regulatory or statutory development.

Leiba said the Environmental working Group's "ultimate goal" is for the federal government to impose ingredient disclosure requirements on manufacturers, but until that happens some companies will likely continue to voluntarily disclose the ingredients..

Colorado May Shut Down Wells If Oil, Gas Companies Miss Deadlines

Posted May 25, 2017, 02:55 P.M. ET

By Tripp Baltz

The Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission could order the shutdown of any oil and gas well if those wells' operators fail to meet upcoming deadlines to check certain pipelines.

Commission director Matt Lepore warned producers that shutdowns could apply to wells connected to underground flowlines covered by a notice to operators sent after a fatal home explosion last month in Firestone, Colo., Todd Hartman, spokesman for the state Department of Natural Resources, told Bloomberg BNA May 25.

The notice directs operators to inspect flowlines by May 30 and pressure test them for leaks by June 30, Hartman said. Frederick-Firestone Fire Protection investigators identified odorless, colorless natural gas leaking from a severed 1-inch flowline that ran six feet from the destroyed home as the cause of the April 17 explosion and fire that killed two men and left a woman critically injured.

Inspect and Test

Following that determination, the commission, at the direction of Colorado Gov. John Hickenlooper (D), ordered oil and gas companies to inspect any existing flowlines and pipelines located within 1,000 feet of an occupied building including homes, schools, and hospitals, by May 30. The order requires operators to ensure integrity of such pipelines by pressure testing them by June 30.

The flowline implicated in the Firestone explosion was technically "abandoned"—a term which means it had previously been taken out of service—but had not been properly disconnected from the wellhead and capped as required by a commission rule (Rule 1103). The line was not in use in 2016, but natural gas began flowing through it again in January 2017.

Anadarko Petroleum Co. was the owner and operator of the flowline at the time of the incident. The previous owner was Noble Energy Inc. It remains unknown how the line was severed.

Anadarko officials didn't immediate respond to Bloomberg BNA's request for comment.

Capped and Sealed

Two additional requirements are included in the notice to operators. Companies are required by May 30 to inspect all existing flowlines and pipelines, regardless of their distance from an occupied building, that have been abandoned under Rule 1103.

Flowline or pipeline risers—the portion of a line that juts out from the ground—must be clearly marked using fluorescent paint, have all operating valves removed, be sealed, and be capped so they are cut off below the ground.

By June 30 operators must complete abandonment of any flowline or pipeline not actively operated regardless of distance form an occupied building and regardless of when it was taken out of service, the commission said.

Maryland Limits Pesticide Use in State-Owned Pollinator Habitats

Posted May 25, 2017, 01:33 P.M. ET

By Kathy Lundy Springuel

Three Maryland agencies required to prepare pollinator habitat plans for state lands will be limited in their use of certain pesticides under legislation Gov. Larry Hogan (R) signed May 25.

The restrictions are prompted by concerns that neonicotinoid pesticides contribute to the mortality of bees, birds, and butterflies, putting at risk that sector of the nation's food supply that relies on them for pollination.

Signed H.B. 830 prohibits the use of neonicotinoid pesticides and seeds or plants treated with a neonicotinoid pesticide on state lands designated as pollinator habitat areas.

For pesticides labeled as toxic to bees or other pollinators that are not neonicotinoid pesticides, the bill allows their use in pollinator habitat areas only if the state health secretary determines their use is necessary to respond to "a specific instance of threat to public health."

The new law applies to the Department of Natural Resources, Maryland Environmental Service and State Highway Administration, which are required under state law to establish pollinator habitat plans by July 1 and implement them by July 2018.

In 2016, Maryland became the first state to ban consumer use of neonicotinoid pesticides under S.B. 198/H.B. 211.

That ban, which takes effect Jan. 1, 2018, includes exceptions for certified applicators, farmers, and veterinarians.

GM Accused in Owner Lawsuit of Using VW-Like Defeat Devices

Posted May 25, 2017, 12:53 P.M. ET

By Kartikay Mehrotra and Ryan Beene

General Motors Co. was sued for allegedly putting defeat devices in its trucks to beat emissions tests, the sixth carmaker accused of diesel cheating since 2015, when Volkswagen AG admitted to installing software to bypass pollution rules.

Owners or lessees of more than 705,000 GM Duramax diesel trucks filed a class-action lawsuit May 25, claiming GM installed multiple such devices in two models of heavy-duty trucks from 2011 to 2016. The 190-page complaint is littered with 83 references to VW, and asserts that the environmental damage caused by each truck could surpass that of the German automaker's vehicles.

GM's cheating allowed its trucks to pass U.S. inspections, even while they spewed emissions two to five times the legal limit under regular driving conditions, according to the complaint filed in Detroit federal court.

GM spokesman Tony Cervone said the lawsuit is without merit.

The complaint underscores questions about the credibility of diesel technology. The allegations against VW have cost it $24.5 billion in fines, penalties and potential buybacks across North America.

In the case of Fiat Chrysler Automobiles NV, drivers filed a class action alleging VW-like cheating on diesel emissions tests and shortly after, U.S. prosecutors and regulators were investigating as well. Daimler AG is the target of a German probe related to diesel emissions, and French carmakers Renault SA and PSA Group are both being investigated in their home country.

NOx Pollutants

"GM claimed its engineers had accomplished a remarkable reduction of diesel emissions," attorney Steve Berman, a managing partner at Hagens Berman, said in the complaint. Berman has also represented drivers and dealerships against VW and in Fiat Chrysler's ongoing litigation. "These GM trucks likely dumped as much excess poisonous emissions into our air as did the cheating Volkswagen passenger cars."

Excessive emissions from the GM vehicles exposed the general public to noxious levels of smog, according to the complaint. Diesel engines, while more fuel efficient, produce greater volumes of nitrogen oxide pollutants, or NOx. During on-road testing the diesel trucks polluted at levels beyond legal limits and higher than their gasoline counterparts, according to the complaint.

To meet environmental standards, the Chevrolet Silverado Duramax and GMC Sierra Duramax diesel trucks will probably require modifications that would reduce power, torque and fuel efficiency, according to the complaint.

Technology provider Robert Bosch GmbH, which was named as a co-defendant by consumers who sued VW, is also defendant in the GM case, described in the complaint as "an active and knowing participant in the scheme to evade" emissions standards.

A Bosch representative didn't immediately respond to a request for comment on the GM suit.

Representatives of the Justice Department and the Environmental Protection Agency didn't immediately respond to requests for comment.

—With assistance from David Welch, Tom Schoenberg, Jennifer A. Dlouhy and Gabrielle Coppola.

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Brazil Fines Port Operator for Ship-to-Ship Oil Spill

Posted May 25, 2017, 7:52 A.M. ET

By Michael Kepp

Acu Petroleo, an oil terminal operator in Rio de Janeiro's industrial port, faces 275,000 reais ($84,200) in fines after spilling an undisclosed volume of oil May 5.

The oil spilled in the outer sea limit of the port area in Rio de Janeiro state during a transfer of oil involving two tankers, both of which were contracted by Shell Oil.

The fine was low because the spill was confined and Acu Petroleo was a first-time offender for this type of violation, according to a May 23 statement from INEA, the secretariat's enforcement arm.

China's Coal-Shrinking Goal Wins Believers as Gas Use Surges

Posted May 25, 2017, 8:19 A.M. ET

By Dan Murtaugh, Aibing Guo and Sarah Chen

With factories and power plants across China burning half the world's coal, the government's latest targets for using more natural gas to ease the country's worsening air pollution seemed too ambitious.

Though gas remains a small and expensive component in China's fuel mix, demand is rising faster than expected for domestic and imported supplies. In April, consumption was 22 percent higher than the same month in 2016, and the total for the first four months of the year is up more than 12 percent, data from the National Development and Reform Commission show.

The results are encouraging analysts to upgrade their demand forecasts and may signal the government is on track to reach its goal of getting as much as 10 percent of its energy from gas by 2020. It's also bolstering the outlook for hundreds of billions of dollars in possible investments by companies as far away as Russia, Australia and the U.S. to build gas pipelines and export infrastructure to feed the growing Chinese market.

"China's targets are looking more and more achievable," said Laban Yu, head of Asia oil and gas equity research at Jefferies Group LLC in Hong Kong. "It has nothing to do with China's economy, or natural gas and coal prices. It's policy driven, and it's about whether the government is serious about doing what it says it will do."

Unlike the U.S., where cheap and ample supplies of gas led to a surge in use by power plants and

factories that now exceeds coal, China's domestic output costs more to produce and the country relies on long-distance imports, including liquefied natural gas carried by tankers. Government-set prices are among the highest in the world, leaving no incentive to switch unless pushed by regulation.

President Xi Jinping's government is leaning on gas as one tool for easing the air pollution that's choking cities from Beijing to Shanghai. Coal burning is the biggest culprit in the smog that's a frequent urban blur and poses risks to the health of the world's biggest population. China also is pushing hard to meet its commitments to reduce carbon emissions linked to climate change.

King Coal

Coal made up almost two-thirds of China's energy use in 2015, while gas came in at less than 6 percent. In the U.S., gas accounted for 29 percent last year, compared with 15 percent for coal. Wholesale gas in China last year averaged $7.28 per million British thermal units, compared with $2.46 in the U.S., according to an annual survey by the International Gas Union. The U.S. benchmark Henry Hub price was $3.22 as of 9:47 a.m. in London.

In January, China's latest five-year plan called for using gas instead of coal in industrial boilers throughout four major urban areas: the greater Beijing region, northeast China, the Yangtze River Delta around Shanghai and the Pearl River Delta in Guangdong province. Provincial governments are supporting the efforts by subsidizing gas-supply connections and boiler replacements, according to Morgan Stanley.

Transportation is also seen as a growth driver through 2020, with more long-haul trucks running on liquefied natural gas, UBS Group AG analysts forecast. Major manufacturers sold about 1,900 LNG-fueled trucks in the first two months of 2017, a five-fold increase from the same period in 2016. Transportation accounts for about 10 percent of Chinese gas demand, Morgan Stanley analyst Andy Meng said in a March report.

The shift isn't without hurdles, especially if coal remains cheap. Gas got a boost when a reduction in domestic coal output led to an almost doubling of coal prices over 12 months, to about 700 yuan ($102) a metric ton in November. But the appeal may wane if coal resumes a slump that began in late 2011. Prices have fallen below 600 yuan this month and may slip under 500 yuan by the end of June, according to Jefferies.

Cheaper Alternative

"As coal prices look destined to drop to around 500 yuan a ton this year, the conversion to natural gas will stop, and some price-sensitive industrial users may even think of switching back," said Tian Miao, a Beijing-based analyst at North Square Blue Oak Ltd.

China's gas demand must grow between 13 percent and 15 percent annually through the end of the decade to meet the upper end of the government's target, which equates to about 360 billion cubic meters, analysts at UBS and Sanford C. Bernstein estimate. Without more aggressive policies or lower prices, gas may end up a smaller part of the energy mix than forecast, according to North Square Blue Oak.

"High natural gas prices are the root problem," Tian said. "Barring extreme policy enforcement, the only way to consistently boost use is to lower prices to a level that's competitive with alternative fuels."

Even regulators signaled they may want to temper expectations. In January, they added a lower range for the five-year-plan target on gas use at 8.3 percent by 2020, to go along with the 10 percent goal published the previous month. Meanwhile, the share of coal is expected to fall to 58 percent.

The government recognizes it must make gas more a cost-effective alternative, UBS analysts including Ken Liu wrote in a February report. It cut prices twice in 2015 to make gas cheaper for wholesale buyers than competing propane and fuel oil. The total cost was still higher because of fees distributors charged for transporting gas, UBS said. The government is trying to fix that with plans to cap the rate of return on assets for urban gas distributors and pipeline companies.

In the second half of the year, the government is likely to cap distributors' profits, introduce coal taxes and gas subsidies, allow more joint ventures between state and private companies, and push to diversify gas supply sources, Nomura Holdings Inc. analysts including Jamie Wang said in a research note. Regulators haven't released details and timelines of any industry reforms yet.

"One of the big policy agendas is liberalization of the gas market," said Neil Beveridge, an analyst at Bernstein in Hong Kong. "That is really the ultimate direction in which the government wants to head in."

After the demand data for April was disclosed, Yu at Jefferies said his 10 percent growth forecast for this year is "now looking quite conservative." Morgan Stanley said the expansion may overtake the bank's estimate, which it already upgraded in March to 13 percent from 10 percent. Keeping pace with this year's consumption growth, domestic production reached a record and, along with imports, is running above seasonal levels.

"I was suspicious that the target may ever be met," Yu said. "But the reality is that this year the government is delivering."

—With assistance from Jing Yang, Aaron Clark and Elena Mazneva.

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Daily Environment Report for EPA

To: Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
From: EPA Press Office
Sent: Tue 7/25/2017 6:37:54 PM
Subject: EPA Announces Superfund Task Force Recommendation

EPA Announces Superfund Task Force Recommendations

Recommendations to Streamline and Improve the Superfund Program

Contact Information: press@epa.gov

(WASHINGTON) — Today, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Superfund Task Force released their report to EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt, providing 42 specific and detailed recommendations to streamline and improve the Superfund program. Administrator Pruitt also signed a directive to leaders across the Agency of 11 specific actions that should be implemented right away, with renewed focus, including identification, within 60 days, of the sites where the risk of human exposure is not fully controlled.

"There is nothing more core to the Agency's mission than revitalizing contaminated land," **said EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt**. "I commend the team effort of the career and political staff on the Task Force, working together to develop recommendations that are detailed, but also workable – to ensure that we can expedite the protection of human health and the environment around these properties and accelerate the reuse. I look forward to leading this team toward full implementation of these recommendations."

"Being on this Task Force was a great opportunity to identify legitimate impediments that prevent expeditious cleanup of Superfund Sites and working to address those issues," **said Karen Melvin, EPA Region 3 Director, Hazardous Site Cleanup Division.**

Established by Congress in 1980, the Superfund Program governs the investigation and cleanup of the nation's most complex hazardous waste sites in order to convert those sites into community resources. The National Priorities List (NPL) came into existence in 1983. It includes those sites that are of national priority among the known releases or threatened releases of hazardous substances, pollutants, or contaminants throughout the United States. Each year, sites are listed and delisted based on criteria in EPA's regulations. As of June 21, 2017, there are 1,336 sites on the NPL, of which 1,179 are privately owned sites and 157 are federal facilities. Sites on the NPL are in various stages of completion and much work still remains. The recommendations of the Superfund Task Force, when implemented, will improve and expedite the process of site remediation and promote reuse.

The Superfund Task Force, chaired by Albert Kelly, senior advisor to the administrator, was commissioned on May 22, 2017, and includes leaders from EPA's Office of Land and Emergency Management, Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance, Office of General Counsel, EPA Region 3 (as the lead region for the Superfund program), as well as other offices.

The 42 Superfund Task Force recommendations are organized into five goals:

- Expediting Cleanup and Remediation;
- Re-invigorating Responsible Party Cleanup and Reuse;
- Encouraging Private Investment;

- Promoting Redevelopment and Community Revitalization; and
- Engaging Partners and Stakeholders

Each goal in the Task Force report is accompanied by a set of strategies that include specific actions which are planned to commence within twelve months.

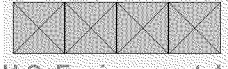
A copy of the directive that the Administrator signed today of the 11 specific actions that leaders across the Agency should implement immediately can be found: https://www.epa.gov/superfund/administrator-pruitts-memo-regarding-receipt-superfund-task-force-report-and-next-steps

To view the complete set of Superfund Task Force recommendations, please visit https://www.epa.gov/superfund/superfund-task-force-recommendations

For more information about the Superfund program, please visit https://www.epa.gov/superfund

EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt signs directive to leaders across the Agency of 11 specific actions that should be implemented right away

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By Hadas Gold | 05/23/2017 05:51 AM EDT

With Cristiano Lima and Alex Weprin

FOR THE FIRST TIME IN 17 YEARS FOX NEWS PLACED THIRD IN THE PRIMETIME DEMO RATINGS LAST WEEK. MSNBC, meanwhile, had a monster week, riding high off of Rachel Maddow's strong ratings and controversy swirling around the White House, placing number one in total primetime audiences and the 25 to 54 year old demographic ratings that advertisers care so much about. The network was also the second most watched network in all of cable for primetime last week. Meanwhile Fox is still reeling from a primetime news shakeup and opinionated primetime hosts who would rather cover other stories than the latest drama at the White House.

The numbers breakdown according to Nielsen from last week's weekday primetime (8-11p.m.):

MSNBC with 2.440 million total viewers, 611,000 in the 25-54 year old sweet spot demo.

Fox News with 2.405 million total viewers, 497,000 in the demo.

CNN with 1.649 million total viewers, 589,000 in the demo.

Granted, Fox is still in a really strong position and wins the day overall in total audience numbers. But the strength of MSNBC is striking. As TVNewser notes, the last time Fox finished third in the prime time demo for a full week was the week of June, 9, 2000.

Former Fox star Bill O'Reilly weighed in on the slipping ratings in an appearance we missed last Friday on Glenn Beck's show: "On the Fox News side, you know, they made their decisions," he said, according to the Free Beacon. "They didn't have to make those decisions, and they really didn't have a plan. When you take a guy like me out of the lineup, and I'm doing five, six million viewers a night, you better have a plan to replace that."

HELLO FROM OSLO, NORWAY - I'm Hadas Gold, filling in for Joe who will be back tomorrow, never fear! I'm here where the sun doesn't set until 10p.m. this time of year speaking at a conference about all things Donald Trump and the media. Send Oslo and media tips to hgold@politico.com and follow me on twitter @hadas_gold. Special thanks to Alex Weprin and Cristiano Lima for their extra help these last two days.

Morning Media is edited by **Alex Weprin** (@alexweprin / aweprin@politico.com) and produced with writing/reporting help from **Cristiano Lima** (clima@politico.com / @ludacristiano). **Archives**. **Subscribe.**

COVERING MANCHESTER: The bombing at an Ariana Grande concert in Manchester, U.K. last night caused U.S. TV news channels to pivot from President Trump's first foreign trip. MSNBC had Brian Williams anchoring starting at 10 p.m. (Lawrence O'Donnell was at a family event in Boston, we hear), while Shepard Smith anchored at 9 and 11 p.m. on Fox News. Sean Hannity anchored a live hour at 10, while coverage continued into the overnight hours. CNN, likewise, extended live coverage to cover the breaking news. ABC, CBS and NBC all broke into regular programming with special reports about the news.

** **A message from the National Confectioners Association - #AlwaysATreat:** Leading global chocolate and candy companies are coming together to provide more information, options, and support as consumers enjoy their favorite treats. It's the first step on our journey to help people manage their sugar intake and ensure that they feel empowered to make informed choices. Learn more at AlwaysATreat.com. **

MORE LAWSUITS HIT FOX NEWS: The tough week for the channel continues as three more complainants came forward alleging discrimination. Per Bloomberg , one woman "claims she faced retaliation for reporting sexist and harassing conduct," another says she "encountered a racially hostile work environment and was fired less than three days after telling her supervisor she was pregnant." A third, "who wasn't classified as a permanent employee, said she was also subjected to racial discrimination and was fired after giving birth." The three are represented by the law firm Wigdor LLP which is also representing more than a dozen other current and former Fox employees alleging discrimination against the network.

FOX'S RESPONSE: "We have consistently demonstrated that the Company is committed to a diverse workplace that is free from all forms of discrimination, takes any complaint of discrimination seriously, and in these particular matters took prompt, effective and, where necessary, strong remedial action. We believe these latest claims are without legal basis and look forward to proving that Fox News at all times has acted appropriately, and lawfully, in connection with these matters."

REPORTING WHILE FEMALE: Our colleague Annie Karni and the Wall Street Journal's Carol Lee were the print poolers yesterday on Trump's foreign trip. Normally this would be nothing unusual but yesterday the fact that they were female affected how they could cover an event. At the Western Wall in Jerusalem, men are separated from the women, so Annie and Carol were not able to accompany Trump to the wall, instead going down with Melania and Ivanka Trump.

"As female poolers, Carol and I were technically on the female side of the Wall, separated from the male press pool by a small, low barrier that we could look over. We couldn't hear anything of what was happening, but the rabbis spoke quietly to Trump as they approached the Wall," Karni reported. Reuters' Steve Holland then stepped in, providing some details on what happened after Trump left and the women were ushered away.

"Once he and Melania reunited, Trump's son in law Jared Kushner, economic adviser Gary Cohn and national security adviser H.R. McMaster and Secretary of State Rex Tillerson approached the wall en masse and offered their own prayers."

SAUDI ARABIA BLOCKED ISRAELI REPORTERS FROM COVERING TRUMP'S TRIP by denying their visas, the Forward reports. The reporters were approved by the White House to travel on the press charter plane but last week were told they were not getting visas. It's nothing new for Saudi Arabia (the country does not have diplomatic relations with Israel) and they last made such a move in 2014 during a Barack Obama trip to the kingdom.

NO, THE INFOWARS CORRESPONDENT DOES NOT HAVE A PERMANENT WHITE HOUSE PRESS PASS, at least not yet. Jerome Corsi tweeted on Monday that he had secured White House press credentials. But Corsi was only in the White House on a day pass , not the more difficult to obtain and greater access granting White House hard passes. The worst kept secret in Washington is that nearly anyone who can claim in any way that they publish news (pretty low bar with this thing we call the internet) can apply for and be granted a temporary day or even weekly White House pass that allows them into the briefings. The fringe characters have been showing up to regular briefings for years, just this time around they're getting a bit more attention.

BUZZFEED NEWS' MONTANA PLAN via Alex Weprin: BuzzFeed News is planning another live election night show, this time covering the special House race in Montana on Thursday, May 25. The program will kick off at 8 PM MST, and will air exclusively on Twitter and Periscope. BuzzFeed will have a number of reporters stationed in Montana covering the race, and commentary will be provided by editor in chief Ben Smith, Decision Desk HQ's Brandon Finnegan and others. BuzzFeed previously hosted live election coverage during the Georgia special election.

--Speaking of BuzzFeed: "Judge won't move libel suit against BuzzFeed to New York over Trump dossier," via our colleague Josh Gerstein : "BuzzFeed and its editor-in-chief Ben Smith asked that the case be relocated to New York City, but Miami-based U.S. District Court Judge Ursula Ungaro issued a ruling Monday refusing to give up the case filed by Russian tech executive and entrepreneur Aleksej Gubarev. BuzzFeed took the controversial step of publishing the 35-page dossier in January, after press reports said it was mentioned in reports U.S. intelligence agencies circulated to top officials in the Obama administration and the incoming Trump team. Smith acknowledged that his reporters could not verify the accuracy of the facts in the dossier, but he said the public should be able to see it since it had circulated widely in Washington and was affecting policy discussions."

BUZZFEED, NETFLIX HONOR MICHAEL HASTINGS - BuzzFeed and Netflix hosted a screening and discussion of the new film "War Machine" recently, in honor of journalist Michael Hastings, whose book "The Operators" served as the inspiration for the movie. Hastings died in a car crash in 2013.

The film (Spoiler alert) features a journalist based on Hastings serving as the narrator and as a character in the film. The Hastings character follows the fictional general Glen McMahon as he works on a Rolling Stone profile (McMahon was based on Stanley McChrystal, who Hastings profiled for the magazine). "We were really captivated by Michael's book," said Brad Pitt, who plays McMahon in the film, and also served as a producer, during the discussion afterward. "It

certainly highlighted the absurdity of the [war in Afghanistan] even at that time."

"I think Michael would certainly see it as progress, that at least now it is not heresy to question the war machine," said Hastings' widow Elise Jordan, who previously served as director of communications for the National Security Council. "I think what people forget now about Michael, when he wrote that story he was so young he was 30 years old and taking on one of the most powerful institutions in the world, and that is a really really hard thing to do, when you are a young man and you have incoming from so many people. Sometimes you see the press sic on their own, and I think that is something to be cognizant of, as we are watching all of the coverage of the Trump administration, journalists staying on their mission of delivering honesty, delivering truth to their readers, and not getting derailed by the sideshow squabbles."

"I remember Michael being frustrated that everybody was asking about how he got the interview, and whether it was off the record or whether it was on the record, and it never got to a discussion about the war fighting itself," said BuzzFeed News national security correspondent Nancy Youssef The fact that we are having this discussion makes me optimistic that we will be able to talk about it."

"[Michael] did say to us at one point when we were agreeing to [adapt his book into a movie], please don't turn this into something that glorifies war," said Plan B Entertainment co-president Jeremy Kleiner. "And I think the film is very funny, I think the film is very tragic, clever, subversive and I think the film shows some individual nobility. What I think the film does not say, is that war is glorious."

REVOLVING DOOR:

-- ProPublica, soon launching its first regional bureau in Chicago, announced its first three Illinois hires: NPR visuals alum David Eads joins as a news applications developer and the Chicago Tribune's Jason Grotto and Jodi Cohen come aboard as reporters.

-- **Tomi Lahren's new gig** will be with the Great America Alliance, a pro-Trump political non-profit that seeks to build grassroots support for the president's agenda.

-- **McClatchy layoffs hit Sacramento Bee newsroom.** The parent-company, which reported a net loss of $95.6 million in the first quarter of 2017, did not specify the number of layoffs, but several of its papers have seen staff reductions in recent weeks.

-- CBS chairman and CEO Les Moonves has signed a contract extension that will keep him at the helm, of the media giant into 2021, the network announced Monday.

SOUND BITES:

-- "The late Fox chief pledged Americans fair and balanced news. Maybe now we'll get it." [Monica Lewinsky]

-- " Is media Trump deranged? Maybe. Dependent? For sure." [Chris Stirewalt]

-- "This is a leak about firing leakers," [Edward-Isaac Dovere]

INDEPENDENT JOURNAL REVIEW IN THE HOT SEAT ONCE AGAIN for questionable journalism practices. A piece posted on the conservative viral news site on Monday detailed Sheriff David Clarke's defending himself after CNN's KFILE reported that he had plagiarized parts of his master's thesis. But the piece added something more: a headline noting "something missing on reporter's resume". The reporter, Andrew Kaczynski, did not finish college. Soon enough the piece was updated , now with a headline that sounded more like it's defending Kaczynski (Sheriff Clarke Denies Plagiarism Claim as His Supporters Go After the Reporter Who Broke the Story) and an editor's note that says the headline and copy have been updated "for clarity."

If you need reminding of IJR's previous run-ins with journalism gone awry, see here and here. An IJR spokesperson did not respond to a request for comment.

MORE DETAILS ON TRUMP ASKING COMEY TO JAIL JOURNOS - Last week the New York Times reported that Trump had suggested to former FBI Director James Comey that he should target reporters for publishing leaks. Now CNN reports that in the Valentine's Day meeting in the Oval Office, Trump expressed frustration about news stories detailing his private conversations with the leaders of Mexico and Australia the previous month, saying Comey needed to go after the leakers, the source said.

BREAKING NEWS: BABY STELTER IS HERE! And she already has her own Twitter account (of course). Elated parents CNN correspondent Brian and NY1 traffic reporter Jamie shared the details: "It's a GIRL □□□ Sunny Ray Stelter was born Sunday, May 21 at 1:24pm. (Almost in time for Reliable Sources!) She weighs 6 pounds 13 ounces and is all sunshine ?????? Jamie and I are over the moon and can't wait for everyone to meet our sweet SUNNY □" Mazel tov you two! (See a picture of the beautiful bundle here).

STEPHEN COLBERT: TED CRUZ WANTED ME TO 'HUMANIZE' HIM: Back when he was in the throes of a hotly-contested Republican primary battle, Texas Sen. Ted Cruz made a surprising request of "Late Show" host Stephen Colbert: "I was hoping we could humanize me," the senator said to the late-night host prior to their Sept. 2015 interview. Colbert, who recalled the interaction on Saturday at New York Mag's Vulture Festival, according to the New York Post , then gave Cruz some TV advice: "Step 1, don't ask anyone to humanize you. That's something humans don't ask." He added, "Don't go into a stump speech and you will be a human being,'" Cruz replied, "'That's hard," and Colbert came back, "So is being human.'" Read more on the exchange here.

MSNBC ANCHOR STEPHANIE RUHLE TOOK AIM AT TRUMP in a commencement speech at her alma mater Lehigh University on Monday. Trump gave the commencement address at Lehigh 29 years ago, descending on the campus in the helicopter. Some excerpts from Ruhle's speech:

--Ruhle advised graduates to "be selfish" and take care of themselves, otherwise they won't be

able to perform at their best. "And just because you can have two scoops of ice cream on your chocolate cream pie, doesn't mean you should. Just try to be good. I am not talking about a selfishness that means two scoops for you and only one for your guests. Not that kind of selfishness."

--"Last week (the president) gave another commencement address, and he said, "No politician in history has been treated worse or more unfairly. When I was in your seats, I thought Lehigh had been pretty unfair to me. I was wrong. And the president is wrong."

--"If you break something, say sorry. If you flake on a commitment say sorry. If you accuse the former President of the United States of criminal wiretapping and you're wrong, say sorry...."

SOUNDTRACK:

One of the top songs here in Norway right now is "Fy Faen by Hkeem/Temur", the title of which is a new curse word I've learned while here.

EXTRAS:

-- Rolling Stone founding editor and publisher Jann Wenner will be profiled in an in-depth biography hitting the shelves on Oct. 24. [WWD]

-- "How NPR considers what new platforms - from smartwatches to fridges - will get its programming" [Nieman Lab]

-- ABC scored the first sit down television interview with Billy Bush, leading some to speculate he might be eyeing a job there. [ABC News]

-- Washington Examiner is launching a "Trump's America" project, a four-year reporting project "that will monitor the pulse of the Trump presidency with deep, long-form reporting in nine key counties that helped swing the election to the Republican candidate." [MediaDC]

-- Megyn Kelly's new NBC show "Sunday Night With Megyn Kelly" will debut on June 4. [The Wrap]

** **A message from the National Confectioners Association - #AlwaysATreat:** We've always created transparent, fun, and great-tasting treats. By 2022, Mars, Wrigley, Nestlé USA, Ferrero, Lindt, Ghirardelli, Russell Stover, and Ferrara Candy Company will work together to make half of their individually wrapped products available in sizes that contain 200 calories or less per pack. And, 90 percent of the best-selling treats made by these companies will have calorie information printed right on the front of the pack. During the same time period, the newly established AlwaysATreat.com will evolve into a digital resource full of easy-to-use information for consumers to better understand the unique role that chocolate and candy can play in a happy, balanced lifestyle. Learn more at AlwaysATreat.com. **

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Subject: POLITICO's Morning Transportation, presented by Citizens for On Time Flights: Extension tension — McCaul in the lead for DHS chief — A 'productive' but 'inconclusive' Gateway meeting

By Brianna Gurciullo | 09/08/2017 10:04 AM EDT

With help from Tanya Snyder, Stephanie Beasley and Mary Lee

EXTENSION TENSION: A floor vote on the House FAA bill is on the schedule for next Wednesday or Thursday, House Transportation Chairman Bill Shuster (R-Pa.) told reporters. But pass or fail, Congress will need to clear an extension, which Shuster blamed Thursday on the upper chamber. "The Senate hasn't done anything," he said. The Senate's FAA bill (S. 1405 (115)) was approved by committee at the end of June, a couple days after Shuster's committee did the same with his bill (H.R. 2997 (115)). Neither bill has yet to receive floor consideration.

Details, details: Senate Commerce Chairman John Thune (R-S.D.) said he'd like to see an extension around three to six months long, but House lawmakers could push for something on the shorter side. Rep. Sam Graves (R-Mo.) said Thursday he is expecting a clean extension with no riders.

Moving along: The House Transportation Committee submitted its report to accompany the FAA bill and it was put on the Union Calendar on Wednesday.

GAUNTLET THROWN: The American Conservative Union Foundation has called on Shuster to withdraw his FAA bill and "start from scratch" because his air traffic control proposal doesn't align with the group's "Seven Principles of Privatization." (Note: Shuster doesn't actually claim his plan is "privatization.") ACUF's analysis found that DOT would retain too much control under Shuster's proposal and that the new corporate entity in charge of air traffic control operations wouldn't be open to outside ownership or investment. Tanya has more for Pros.

DEM SIGNS ONTO SHUSTER'S BILL: This week, the House FAA bill got its third Democratic co-sponsor: Rep. Vicente Gonzalez of Texas. "You're talking about updating our towers," Gonzalez told MT when asked about his co-sponsorship. "I think we need to catch up with the rest of the world. Europe and Canada have already done it, and I think it will make air travel safer." Gonzalez said Shuster didn't reach out to him personally about the bill but that Shuster did make an appearance at a meeting of Blue Dog Democrats, which helped convince him to support the legislation.

LET'S GET OUT OF HERE: Thanks for tuning in to POLITICO's Morning Transportation - your daily tipsheet on all things trains, planes, automobiles and ports - where your host doesn't know what she will do Sunday night without a new episode of "Game of Thrones" airing. Be sure to send tips, feedback and lyrics to bgurciullo@politico.com or @brigurciullo.

"There's a dream that strings the road / With broken glass for us to hold / And I cut so far before I had to say / Please, please tell me now / Is there something I should know." (h/t Mike Liptak at

the Travel Technology Association)

GET LISTENING: Follow MT's playlist on Spotify. What better way to start your day than with songs (picked by us and readers) that are all about flying, driving, commuting and sailing?

INFOGRAPHIC - GUIDE TO LEGISLATION: Brush up on your knowledge of the complicated legislative process. Our guide to legislation infographic covers each step of the legislation proposal process, the changes legislation goes through before it becomes a law and how legislative differences are resolved. Download the guide.

IT'S ALL ABOUT THE HE SAYS, SHE SAYS: House Transportation Committee Republicans and Dems are using two newly released reports as cudgels in their battle over air traffic control. As Tanya wrote for Pros, Republicans are highlighting a new report from DOT's inspector general, which says the FAA's management of a $1.8 billion contract for the installation of Automatic Dependent Surveillance Broadcast (ADS-B) - a big component of NextGen - has some gaps when it comes to accountability. Republicans say the report is evidence of the agency's "poor" and "ineffective" management of NextGen.

And in this corner ... Dems are showcasing a GAO report, also publicly released Thursday, that indicates the FAA's implementation of NextGen is on track and on budget. The report says the FAA "has taken actions to address challenges to implementation," and that ongoing issues - like funding levels and a possible spinoff - are outside the agency's control. NextGen has already improved surface traffic operations at 39 of the 40 busiest airports in the nation, according to the report, and the FAA has done a better job consulting with key groups and implementing other GAO recommendations.

LET'S TALK GATEWAY: President Donald Trump met with New York and New Jersey politicians Thursday to talk Gateway, but it mostly seemed to be a listening session. New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo described the sit-down as "productive" but "inconclusive." "The leaders from New York and New Jersey reiterated that construction of new passenger rail tunnels under the Hudson is not only urgent, but critical for the entire northeast region and long overdue," the Democratic governor said. The Obama administration, Cuomo pointed out in his statement, had agreed to pay for half the project. POLITICO New York's Dana Rubinstein has more here.

The other attendees: Transportation Secretary Elaine Chao, White House Chief of Staff John Kelly, OMB Director Mick Mulvaney, National Economic Council Director Gary Cohn, Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-N.Y.), Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand (D-N.Y.), Sen. Cory Booker (D-N.J.), Gov. Chris Christie (R-N.J.) and a dozen House members from New York and New Jersey, per the White House.

What the White House had to say: "The expense of the program, which approaches $30 billion, will require a strong partnership to deliver these nine projects in a cost-effective manner by streamlining the permitting process, using innovative procurement techniques, and being creative in the funding and financing of the program."

IN THE LEAD: Trump may be going slow in picking a new DHS chief, but House Homeland

Security Chairman Michael McCaul(R-Texas) appears to be the leading contender for the job right now, POLITICO's Eliana Johnson and Anna Palmer report . Hurricanes Harvey and Irma have brought "increased urgency" to the process of choosing a replacement for John Kelly. And the Texas Republican, "who was considered for the same post during the transition, is eager to serve in the administration, according to people familiar with his thinking," Eliana and Anna write.

NOT QUITE TURKISH DELIGHT: DHS is mandating more advanced security measures for cargo flights from Turkey, though the agency said that Turkey had already applied the new procedures voluntarily. A TSA spokesman told Stephanie that the agency's new directive would simply codify the security enhancements already in place for cargo flights originating from Turkey and would not affect other countries. The move comes after ISIS attempted to bomb an Australian passenger plane using parts shipped from Turkey, although TSA would not confirm that the directive was being issued in response to that incident specifically.

** **A message from Citizens for On Time Flights:** America invented aviation, yet our Air Traffic Control System is a World War II relic. This costs you time and money. After decades of falling behind, Congress must lead us forward. Tell your Member of Congress to seize this chance to modernize America's ATC system. Visit OnTimeFlights.org to be heard. **

SEPARATE, BUT RELATED: In terms of passenger aviation, airlines seem to be on track to completing all phases of a new security regime by next month, DHS spokesman David Lapan told reporters Thursday. "I checked with TSA this morning and everything is going according to plan," he said. "They haven't identified any problem areas with implementing the security measures. They continue, though, to work with airlines and airports on those, so that could change at any time."

COLGAN FAMILIES MOBILIZING: Friends and family of those who died in a 2009 regional jet crash outside Buffalo, N.Y., are gearing up to push against what they say is another attempt by regional airlines to water down pilot training rules enacted as a direct result of the crash. This time, the families are angry about an Aviation Rulemaking Advisory Committee chartered in April to review and make recommendations for regulations that are "good candidates for repeal, replacement or modification." In a statement, the families said Thursday that they are expecting one of those recommendations could "allow the regional airlines and their lobbyists to bypass the legislative process where they have run into considerable resistance in their attempt to water down strict new qualification requirements for new-hire first officers at the regional airline level that were unanimously enacted by Congress in 2010."

IF AT FIRST YOU DON'T SUCCEED ... House lawmakers again rejected a measure from Rep. Lucille Roybal-Allard (D-Calif.) that would have redirected some of the boosted border and immigration security funding in a fiscal 2018 spending package toward the Coast Guard. The amendment would have provided the service with more than $800 million to help with the construction of heavy polar icebreakers. The full House Appropriations Committee also rejected the amendment when it was offered at a markup in July. House members did, however, add a slew of other DHS-related amendments to the package, including one that would allow the department to partner with rental car agencies to conduct background checks. Pros get all of the

details here.

BUNDLE IT UP: The Senate approved a package Thursday that includes relief for communities affected by Hurricane Harvey, an increase to the debt limit for three months and a continuing resolution to keep the federal government up and running until December as well. The House is likely to clear the package (H.R. 601 (115)) and send it to Trump's desk before this weekend, Pro Budget & Appropriations Brief's Sarah Ferris reports. Sarah notes that the package is the product of an agreement between Trump and leaders in Congress.

ICYMI: During the House's late-night minibus work earlier this week, the chamber adopted by voice vote an amendment that would appropriate $1 million for FRA to set medical fitness standards for certain interstate railway workers. The move would address concerns regarding sleep apnea as a contributing factor in train derailments, Mary Lee reports. DOT recently decided to withdraw an ANPRM on sleep apnea among truckers and train operators, to the disappointment of some lawmakers. Democratic Rep. Nita Lowey of New York, a state where high-profile derailments have occurred, offered the amendment to the package (H.R. 3354 (115)) of eight spending bills.

Plus: The House turned down an amendment by Rep. Brian Babin (R-Texas) that would have forbidden DOT from spending money on enforcing its electronic logging device mandate for trucking.

MT MAILBAG: Labor groups including AFSCME, Professional Aviation Safety Specialists and SEIU will fire off a letter to lawmakers today asking them to challenge air traffic control "privatization" in the House's FAA reauthorization and the Trump administration's infrastructure plan. "Proposals to privatize our air traffic control system are likely to cause the loss of thousands of American jobs in both the public and private sectors," the letter reads.

AWARDS CORNER: The International Aviation Club of Washington, D.C. gave the L. Welch Pogue Lifetime Achievement Award to Jane Garvey, a former FAA administrator, on Thursday night.

SHIFTING GEARS: The Air Travel Fairness Coalition has a new executive director: Kurt Ebenhoch, who formerly led communications at Motorola Solutions and before that held jobs at Northwest, Delta and United. Meanwhile, Mike Reynard, a former House Energy and Commerce Committee staffer for Republicans, is now the communications director of the Travel Technology Association. (h/t POLITICO Influence)

THE AUTOBAHN:

- "How Honda lost its mojo - and the mission to get it back." Reuters.

- "Court rejects Trump administration attempt to include extended family in travel ban." POLITICO.

- "Airlines cap fares, add seats to scheduled flights as Irma bears down on Florida." The

Washington Post.

- "Here's how Alphabet's self-driving cars learn to navigate a tricky intersection." Recode.

- "Self-driving Lyft cars are headed to San Francisco." CNET.

- "Terminal: How the airport came to embody our national psychosis." Slate.

- "Federal probe finds 27 engine fires in tiny Smart cars." The Associated Press.

- "Waymo and Uber head for a self-driving car crash in court." Bloomberg Businessweek.

- "Hurricane Irma: Heavy damage to one of the world's most famous airports." USA Today.

THE COUNTDOWN: DOT appropriations run out in 23 days. The FAA reauthorization expires in 23 days. Highway and transit policy is up for renewal in 1,119 days.

** **A message from Citizens for On Time Flights:** Flying shouldn't be us vs. them. Yet it's hard to look past the fact that the millions of Americans flying commercial every day are subsidizing the .01 percent flying private jets. Their sweetheart deal is surely why private jet owners oppose Air Traffic Control reform. The status quo has been good to them. But the ATC reform bill before Congress would make air travel better for everyone: shorter flights, lower emissions, and fewer cancellations and delays. That's time, and that's money. A modern system benefits all Americans. Visit OnTimeFlights.org and tell Congress it's time to leave the status quo behind. **

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Today's Playbook Power Briefing presented by CTIA

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BULLETIN at 12:36 p.m.: "WASHINGTON (AP) - Hurricane-hit Naples area will be location of President Donald Trump's post-Irma visit to Florida on Thursday."

Good Wednesday afternoon.

NEW DYNAMIC ALERT -- TRUMP'S RYAN PRESERVATION ACT. PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP' s decision to begin talks about Dreamers over dinner tonight with House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) and Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-N.Y.) might be the best news Speaker Paul Ryan has gotten in weeks. If Trump cuts another deal with Schumer and Pelosi, House and Senate Republicans are sure to erupt -- especially if it's an immigration compromise. Republicans have spent millions upon millions of dollars and have waited more than a decade to regain complete control of Washington. And now the Republican president is looking to cut an immigration compromise with Democratic leadership, despite assurances from Ryan that he'll work on the issue.

-- SCHUMER SPEAKS, via Kyle Cheney and Burgess Everett: "'It's a continuation of what we should do in December and we're going to work very hard to get him to be for Dreamers and straightening out health care,' Schumer said at the Capitol on Wednesday morning. Asked whether Trump's recent overtures to him angered Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, Schumer said, 'He asked us. We're going. Those are our two issues.'"

-- WHAT'S AT STAKE FOR RYAN. The speakership is a tricky institution, because one grumpy lawmaker could force a referendum vote at any time. Sure, conservatives are unhappy with the speaker. What would delight a big chunk of the House GOP more than anything? Standing firm against an immigration deal that most of them don't like and have no ownership of. The closer Trump gets to Democrats, the more it pushes Republicans toward Ryan.

-- WHITE HOUSE BEWARE: IMMIGRATION IS NOT LIKE A SHORT-TERM DEBT-

LIMIT OR GOVERNMENT-FUNDING DEAL. Republicans were fine to swallow a short-term accord to keep government open and avoid a debt default. But immigration is such a thorny issue for Hill Republicans. Almost every negotiation blows up. Passions run high. Nodding toward a set of principles caused a dumpster fire for John Boehner a few years ago.

-- HE CAN'T CIRCUMVENT RYAN AND MCCONNELL. Trump will need the Republican leadership's buy-in to get a bill to the floor. **OH, AND BY THE WAY.** McConnell has said that any immigration deal will need the GOP stamp of approval.

OBAMA'S FUTURE PLANS -- SCOOP FROM ISAAC DOVERE -- "Obama offers a message for young leaders - 'persevere'": "'Show up. Dive in. Persevere.' That's Barack Obama's message to supporters as he begins to fill out the shape of the first phase of his post-presidency, announcing on Wednesday a series of programs and a young leaders summit to be held in Chicago on Oct. 31 and Nov. 1. The former president has tried to stay out of the fray since leaving office in January, holding off on pleas from Democrats to more directly take on President Donald Trump, and sticking to just a few statements on key issues -- the travel ban, Obamacare and the decision to end protections for Dreamers, people brought illegally into the country as children." http://politi.co/2f5m51Q

ON THE PRESIDENT'S MIND -- @realDonaldTrump at 7:28 a.m.: "The approval process for the biggest Tax Cut & Tax Reform package in the history of our country will soon begin. Move fast Congress!" ... **at 7:34 a.m.:** "I will be traveling to Florida tomorrow to meet with our great Coast Guard, FEMA and many of the brave first responders & others." ... **at 8:36 a.m.:** "With Irma and Harvey devastation, Tax Cuts and Tax Reform is needed more than ever before. Go Congress, go!"

-- THE REALITY: The Big Six -- the tax writing chairmen, top GOP leaders and top White House advisers -- are releasing a framework at the end of the month. The framework might or might not have rate targets, but our sources tell us it will be a meaty document. Then the committees will hold markups. Republicans are aiming to pass the budget in mid-October. If they get that done -- far from a sure thing -- they'll have fewer than 20 legislative days to rally support around and pass tax reform. Oh yeah, they need to keep the government open.

FIRST IN PLAYBOOK -- TRUMP ADMINISTRATION HOUSE LIAISON JOYCE MEYER and **TREASURY'S DREW MALONEY** huddled with Senate and House leadership and outside groups about tax reform. Today's meeting was at American Action Network's offices. **GROUPS INCLUDED:** American Action Network, Middle Class Growth Initiative, 60 Plus Association, American Action Forum, American Commitment, Americans for Limited Government, AR Squared, Business Roundtable, Citizens Against Government Waste, Citizens United, Crossroads GPS, Financial Services Roundtable, Heritage Action for America, Hispanic Leadership Fund, National Taxpayers Union and Taxpayers Protection Alliance.

QUOTE OF THE DAY -- @MEPFuller: "Paul Ryan gets a question about Breitbart. He says he has three certainties in his life: 'Death, taxes, and attacks from Breitbart.'"

****** **A message from CTIA and America's wireless industry:** The global race to deploy 5G wireless is on-and America needs to win. Government action on spectrum and infrastructure policy will allow U.S. wireless companies to invest $275 billion, create more than 3 million jobs, and add $500 billion to the economy, according to Accenture. Learn more at CTIA.org. ******

THE LATEST ON RUSSIA -- CNN's "MOSCOW" MANU RAJU: "Justice Department denying Senate request to interview FBI officials over Comey firing": "The Justice Department is preventing Senate investigators from interviewing two top FBI officials who could provide first-hand testimony over the firing of former FBI Director James Comey, the latest sign that Special Counsel Robert Mueller could be investigating the circumstances around the firing, officials tell CNN. The previously undisclosed turf war comes as the Senate judiciary committee has not yet given assurances to the special counsel's office that it could have unfettered access to the transcript of the interview it conducted last week with the President's eldest son, Donald Trump Jr., saying that the full Senate must first authorize the release of the information to Mueller's team.

"What appears to have irked the panel in particular is the refusal of the Justice Department to cooperate with a key part of its investigation. The leaders of the panel, Senate Judiciary Chairman Chuck Grassley and the ranking Democrat Dianne Feinstein, have repeatedly asked two senior FBI officials -- Carl Ghattas and James Rybicki -- to sit down for a transcribed interview to discuss the Comey firing as part of its inquiry into any improper interference with the FBI. But the Justice Department has declined, citing 'the appointment of Robert S. Mueller III to serve' as special counsel about Russian interference in the 2016 elections and 'related matters.'" http://cnn.it/2xyBKOU

-- NBC'S CAROL LEE, JULIA AINSLEY and **KEN DILANIAN:** "Michael G. Flynn, the son of President Donald Trump's former national security adviser, is a subject of the federal investigation into Russian meddling in the presidential election and possible collusion between Moscow and the Trump campaign, according to four current and former government officials. The inquiry into Flynn is focused at least in part on his work with his father's lobbying firm, Flynn Intel Group, three current and former officials said. It's unclear when the focus on Flynn began. Barry Coburn, who said he is serving as the younger Flynn's legal counsel, said he couldn't comment on the matter." http://nbcnews.to/2wZG0DP

THE CLINTON MEDIA TOUR -- "Clinton calls Trump Jr.'s explanation of Russia meeting 'an absurd lie'," by Louis Nelson: "The scramble to obfuscate the true nature of Donald Trump Jr.'s meeting last summer with a Russian attorney with ties to the Kremlin is 'ridiculous' and 'an absurd lie,' former Democratic presidential nominee Hillary Clinton said Wednesday morning. ... 'It's ridiculous. It's another absurd lie to cover up what really was going on which I hope we finally uncover and understand,' Clinton told

NBC's 'Today' show in her first live TV interview since last November's election." http://politi.co/2y5lOjW

STILL DANGEROUS IN THE WAKE OF IRMA -- "Five dead at Hollywood nursing home where Hurricane Irma knocked out air conditioning," by The Orlando Sentinel's Anthony Man: "Five people died in a Hollywood nursing home that had no air conditioning after Hurricane Irma knocked out power. Broward County Mayor Barbara Sharief said in a news conference on Wednesday morning that the five people died as a result of loss of air conditioning due to Hurricane Irma. Hollywood police will only confirm one death at this time.

"Timothy Keefe, deputy chief of Broward County Fire-Rescue, said his agency is assisting Hollywood agencies in evacuating the entire facility. He said approximately 100 people were being evacuated. He termed it a 'multi-casualty incident.'" http://bit.ly/2xwQz4g

REMEMBERING PETE DOMENICI -- The Albuquerque Journal's Michael Coleman: "Former Sen. Pete Domenici, the son of Italian immigrants who became the longest-serving U.S. senator in New Mexico's history, died this morning at University of New Mexico Hospital in Albuquerque. His passing was confirmed by his wife, Nancy, and his son, Pete Domenici Jr. Domenici, 85, had recently undergone abdominal surgery. He had suffered a setback during his recovery and had been in intensive care. ...

"Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell praised his former colleague in remarks on the Senate floor this morning. 'Like others in this chamber, I served with Sen. Domenici for many years,' McConnell said. 'I came to know him as smart, hard-working and dedicated -- and a very strong advocate for his home state of New Mexico. We are all saddened by this news today. The Senate offers its condolences to Senator Domenici's family, especially his wife Nancy.'" http://bit.ly/2xy2GhM

NEW YORK STATE OF MIND -- "Isolated, Trump embraces New York friends -- and instincts," by CNN's MJ Lee: "Half a dozen people who have met with the President or speak with him regularly say the former real estate executive is most energized by and at ease in the presence of people who hail from his home state. They cite a range of cultural factors, including the naturally blunt demeanor that New Yorkers are famous for, as well as overlapping sensibilities on political issues like infrastructure and spending. Trump's affinity for other New Yorkers led directly to an unexpected political deal last week with Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer -- a Brooklyn-born Democrat.

If the abrupt agreement on hurricane funding, the debt ceiling and government spending shocked Republican leaders and even some of the President's most senior staff, New Yorkers who have spent time with the two men didn't bat an eye. It is no coincidence, they say, that Trump would have landed his first legislative deal with perhaps the one person in Washington who embodies New York as much as Trump does.

"'If you were at a baseball game in Cincinnati, two New Yorkers in the crowd would easily identify each other. Based on what they're saying, their mannerisms, a little bit of bravado,' said New York City Councilman Joe Borelli, who represents Staten Island and co-chaired Trump's New York campaign. 'Both men are eager to cut through the BS -- that is characteristically New York.'" http://cnn.it/2vU7fy5

VALLEYWATCH -- "Facebook bans monetization of violence, porn, drugs, hate," by TechCrunch's Josh Constine: "Facebook wants content creators to earn money, but not at the expense of the family friendly social network it's built, or the integrity of its advertising clients. So today Facebook established formal rules for what kinds of content can't be monetized with Branded Content, Instant Articles, and mid-roll video Ad Breaks. These include depictions of death or incendiary social issues even as part of news or an awareness campaign. This is a big deal because it could shape the styles of content created for Facebook Watch, the new original programming hub it's launched where publishers earn 55% of ad revenue." http://tcrn.ch/2xxOBR4

TIT FOR TAT-- "Russia reduces parking spaces at U.S. consulates," from the AP http://bit.ly/2xxs8nf

MEDIAWATCH -- Thomas Gibbons-Neff is joining The New York Times as a Pentagon correspondent next month. He was previously at The Washington Post and is a Marine veteran who was deployed twice in Afghanistan.

TRANSITIONS -- NEW GIG FOR JEFF ZIENTS -- Jeff Zients, NEC director under President Obama, will soon be starting as president of the Cranemere Group, founded in 2014 by former AEA Chairman and CEO Vincent Mai. Cranemere is a Berkshire Hathaway-style holding company focused on the acquisition and long-term ownership of mid-sized companies in the United States and Europe. One big fan of the new company: Blackrock CEO Larry Fink.

--FROM LORRAINE WOELLERT -- BUSH ALUMNI: DJ NORDQUIST will be chief of staff for the newly confirmed Kevin Hassett at the Council of Economic Advisers. "Nordquist, a Bush 43 alum, who helped coordinate Gulf Coast rebuilding after Katrina, joins CEA from the Brookings Institution, where she was chief of staff for economic studies and director of communications."

REMEMBERING JAK TEEHAN -- Jak Teehan, the son of Sen. Luther Strange's (R-Ala.) communications director Shana Teehan, died last week. The family will be holding a celebration of his life tomorrow at the Urban Evolution parkour gym in Alexandria from 9:30-11:30 a.m. and asks that, in lieu of flowers, people consider adopting a sea turtle hatchling from the Gumbo Limbo Nature Center. *The Nature Center's site* http://bit.ly/2xx5E69

OUT AND ABOUT -- SPOTTED at a book party last night at the house of Jorge and Paola Guajardo for Richard McGregor's new book "Asia's Reckoning: China, Japan, and

the Fate of U.S. Power in the Pacific Century" -- ***$18.28 on Amazon*** http://amzn.to/2x17VVr: Evan Osnos, Bill Bishop, Amb. Stapleton Roy, Mark Landler, José Andres, Marcus Brauchli, Demetri Sevastopulo, former Indian Amb. to the U.S. Nirupama Rao, Peter Schechter, Kaiser Kuo.

SPOTTED at the U.S. Capitol Historical Society events in the Capitol last night where Hamilton creator Lin-Manuel Miranda was honored with the USCHS' 2017 Freedom Award: Sens. Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska), Kirsten Gillibrand (D-N.Y.), Patrick Leahy (D-Vt.), Susan Collins (R-Maine) and Dick Durbin (D-Ill.); Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.), Stephen Kidd, Bea Gurwitz, Cokie Roberts, Ron Chernow, Luis Miranda, Jim Papa, Christina Reynolds, Melissa Brown, Elizabeth Dews.

SPOTTED at a reception last night at the Hyatt on New Jersey Ave. for the Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget, which also did a tribute video to former Rep. Bill Frenzel (R-Minn.), who died in 2014 (http://bit.ly/2h2KW79): Leon Panetta, Gov. Mitch Daniels, CMS Administrator Seema Verma, Maya MacGuineas, John Dickerson, Heather Long, Reps. Jimmy Panetta (D-Calif.), John Delaney (D-Md.), and Peter Welch (D-Vt.), former Reps. Tim Penny (D-Minn.), Tom Tauke (R-Iowa), Martin Lancaster (D-N.C.), and Glenn Nye (D-Va.).

SPOTTED at the Global War on Terror Memorial Foundation inaugural dinner last night at the American Pharmacists Association: Sen. Joni Ernst (R-Iowa), Jim Nicholson, Reps. Seth Moulton (D-Mass.), Mike Gallagher (R-Wisc.), Scott Taylor (R-Va.), Bill Huizenga (R-Mich.), and Keith Rothfus (R-Pa.), Matt Gannon, Martha Newton, Ret. Gen. George Casey Jr., Ret. Rear Admiral Tom Lynch, Ret. Maj. Gen. James "Spider" Marks.

OBAMA ALUMNI -- Dan Feehan, an Obama administration alum (and veteran) who's running for the Democratic nomination in Minnesota's first congressional district, was feted at a fundraiser for his campaign at Ned Price's home in Shaw last night. **SPOTTED:** Dan's wife Amy, Luke Schleusener, Morgan Plummer, Nate Rawlings, Katie Ra

****** **A message from CTIA and America's wireless industry:** Tomorrow's 5G networks will create 3 million jobs, add $500 billion to the economy, and fuel innovation and entrepreneurialism across every sector. If policymakers move quickly to release more spectrum and modernize infrastructure rules, the wireless industry stands ready to invest $275 billion to build these next-gen networks, according to Accenture. This will drive breakthrough advancements in remote health care, connected vehicles, energy, education and beyond-making our lives better and safer. But the race to deploy 5G wireless networks is underway-and we're at a critical moment. The EU, China, Japan, South Korea and others are doing everything they can to win. If policymakers act now, the U.S. can continue our global leadership in wireless. Learn how at CTIA.org. ******

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June 27, 2017

Today on Climate Beat . . .

. . . we went to Capitol Hill, where EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt faced his second hearing with lawmakers – this time on the Senate side – to defend the Trump administration's proposal to slash agency funding by 31 percent and eliminate dozens of programs.

And in enforcement news, EPA and other federal officials are touting a just-filed enforcement case against a Colorado oil drilling company as one of the first public actions against an energy company since the start of the administration.

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To: Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
From: Bloomberg BNA
Sent: Fri 6/2/2017 12:17:40 AM
Subject: June 01 -- Energy and Climate Report

Energy and Climate Report

June 01, 2017 - Number 105

News

Climate Change
Global Players Vow Steady if 'Slower Transformation' on Climate
Countries and companies worldwide put on a brave face in the wake of President Donald Trump's June 1 announcement that the U.S. would withdraw from the Paris Agreement on climate change, vowing to carry on without the world's second-largest emitter of greenhouse gases.

Climate Change
Trump Announces U.S. Withdrawal From Climate Accord
President Donald Trump announced the U.S. would withdraw from the Paris climate pact and that he will seek to renegotiate the international agreement in a way that treats American workers better.

Climate Policy
Trump's Paris Adieu Is a Win for Coal and Oil but Not a Big One
The biggest winners in President Donald Trump's decision to walk away from the Paris climate accord are oil, coal and natural gas producers. And even they aren't popping Champagne corks.

EPA
Obama EPA Chief Joins Environmental Equity Firm as Adviser
Former EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy is joining an investment firm, marking a departure from three decades in the public sector.

EPA
Supervisors Targeted as EPA Buyout Process Begins
Voluntary buyout procedures are moving ahead at EPA headquarters and regional offices, the agency's acting deputy administrator told staff in a June 1 memo.

Emissions Trading
Finland Launches Subsidies for Energy-Intensive Businesses
Energy-intensive industries in Finland can apply for subsidies to compensate for higher electricity prices caused by the European Union's greenhouse gas emissions trading program under a new state aid initiative that took effect June 1.

Energy
Devon Energy Among Clients For Which Trump Aide Lobbied
The White House granted an ethics waiver to an energy staffer to work on issues such as the

EPA's methane regulations, despite recently having lobbied for companies such as Devon Energy Corp. in 2017 on the rules.

Environmental Justice

EU Court Limits Environmental Liability Exemption

Companies in the European Union that cause harm to water bodies cannot rely on permits issued before the bloc's Environmental Liability Directive took effect to dodge the directive's provisions, the EU Court of Justice ruled June 1.

International Climate

PODCAST: Is This the End for the Paris Accord?

It's official: President Donald Trump will withdraw the U.S. from the Paris Agreement on climate change.

International Climate

Trump Exit Won't Bar Successor From Rejoining Climate Pact

President Donald Trump's June 1 exit from the Paris climate pact will almost surely strengthen China's hand—and to some extent Russia's—as the more than 190 nations still in the pact face years of negotiations over implementing the deal.

International Climate

What Did Trump Just Do? Paris Climate Withdrawal Explained

The U.S. departure from the Paris climate accord won't happen overnight, as President Donald Trump's announcement June 1 sets in motion a years-long process to withdraw from the landmark agreement—and raises a host of questions about what comes next.

International Issues

Economic Damage from Paris Exit May Emerge in Trade Wars

President Donald Trump argued that leaving the Paris climate accord would save jobs at home, but his decision may create a new threat to the U.S. economy from abroad: trade wars.

Motor Vehicles

Norway Adopting Electric Vehicles Faster Than Anywhere Else

Since the 14th century, Akershus Fortress has protected Oslo from raids by bloodthirsty Swedes. Now a Cold War bomb shelter in its basement is being repurposed to help save the Norwegian capital from more insidious foes: pollution and global warming. Starting this month, electric car owners will be able to drive down a narrow ramp between rough-hewn rock walls dripping with condensation and plug in at one of 86 charging stations—for free.

Oil & Gas

Offshore Safety Director Dives Into Regulatory Reviews

The new top regulator for offshore oil and gas safety and environmental protection is diving into reviews of Obama administration regulations to assess how justified they are.

Renewable Energy

Italy Switches on Five New Subsidy-Free Solar Power Plants

Octopus Investments Ltd. started generating power from five subsidy-free solar plants in Italy in the latest sign that clean-energy can be profitable without government support.

Renewable Energy

Taiwan Approves Four-Year Plan to Double Wind Power

Taiwan approved a plan June 1 to double its installed wind power capacity over the next four

years.

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Energy and Climate Report

To: Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
From: Morning Transportation
Sent: Tue 5/30/2017 2:06:58 PM
Subject: POLITICO's Morning Transportation, presented by Delta Air Lines: Will this be the week of the laptop ban? — Trump's infrastructure push is personal — World Bank advises Trump on infrastructure

By Brianna Gurciullo and Tanya Snyder | 05/30/2017 10:00 AM EDT

With help from Lauren Gardner

WILL THIS BE THE WEEK? Laptop ban watch enters its third week, with rising expectations that an announcement is close at hand. The Department of Homeland Security is still keeping things close to the chest - on Sunday DHS Secretary John Kelly reiterated the standard line, that he "might" expand the ban to all international flights and has yet to make a decision. As our Kathryn A. Wolfe reports for Pros, Kelly asserts "there's a real threat" to aviation but that he wants to see where it's going before he makes a decision.

Bottles, cans, paper: Kelly also noted that people are carrying more onto planes now to avoid checked-bag fees, and it's creating problems for TSA. "They can't tell what's in the bags anymore," he said. He hinted that a system TSA is currently testing - in which passengers have to unpack their carry-on luggage and separate food, electronics, and paper into separate bins - would "likely" be expanded nationwide and that DHS is "working out the tactics, techniques and procedures" in the test airports "to find out exactly how to do that with the least amount of inconvenience."

INTRODUCE A LITTLE ANARCHY: Here are just a few of the issues airlines and European airports will have to tackle if the United States expands its electronics ban: The process of informing passengers. Possible liability for broken electronics. The need to check for tablets and laptops in carry-on baggage and stow them properly in the cargo hold. The likely delays that would follow - an estimated hour or two per flight. POLITICO Europe's Cathy Buyck breaks it down.

Fire fears: The European Aviation Safety Agency recommends that travelers bring electronics powered by lithium batters into flight cabins with them so crew members can respond immediately if there's a problem, like a fire. Emirates, an airline already affected by the original ban, now wraps personal electronics "in bubble wrap, labels and boxes them. They are then put in a special container and placed in a dedicated section of the cargo hold equipped with sprinklers," Cathy reports.

The scope: As is, the ban affects 350 flights a week. If DHS started to apply its ban to airports in Europe, it would affect 390 flights a day, the International Air Transport Association estimates.

IT'S TUESDAY: Thanks for tuning in to POLITICO's Morning Transportation, your daily tipsheet on all things trains, planes, automobiles and ports. We are your MT hosts today, so please send tips, feedback and lyrics to tsnyder@politico.com or @TSnyderDC and bgurciullo@politico.com or @brigurciullo.

"I got a pink guitar, a Lincoln Town Car / From ol' what's his name I met at a bar."

Want to keep up with MT's song picks? Follow our Spotify playlist.

** **A message from Delta Air Lines:** Our daily briefing: At Delta we're constantly innovating to make your travel smoother. We tapped RFID technology to keep your bags in check at all times. Giving you more peace of mind from check-in to baggage claim. Learn more: delta.com/dca **

THIS MEANS WAR: The Trump administration seems headed toward overhauling the project approval process in an infrastructure package - which, as POLITICO's Andrew Restuccia and Nancy Cook report, is "getting personal attention from Trump, whose desire to streamline regulations and speed up permits originated with his decades-long career as a real estate developer, according to people who have spoken to the president and his top advisers." Pros get the full download.

Dispatch from DOT: MT's favorite department is in the process right now of examining its rules to fulfill Trump's orders related to reviewing federal regulations. DOT's task force on the issue aims to find "appropriate approaches to deliver cost-neutral regulations," FRA chief safety officer Bob Lauby said at a Railroad Safety Advisory Committee meeting last week. "We have a good start, but I must say there's a lot more work to do, and there's more questions that need to be answered before we will have a firm way forward."

One major question, though: How will agencies handle regulations mandated by Congress versus those they wrote at their own discretion? "We acknowledge the ones that are congressionally mandated, those have always been our most important, but we have different challenges that we're looking at," Lauby told our Lauren Gardner, adding: "Does that mean two little ones for one big one? I don't know." He noted that some of the rules under discussion among RSAC working group members are intended to simplify existing requirements, "so they're right along the lines of what we should be doing, but I think they're all in play at a different level."

THIS WEEK:

Wednesday - The Association for Commuter Transportation holds a webinar on Mobility-as-a-Service, the idea of "integrating various forms of transportation services (public transit, ridesharing, carsharing, bicycling, and walking) into a single system accessible on demand."

Thursday - Waterways Council, Inc. holds an event at the National Press Club on Trump's fiscal 2018 budget proposal, the Army Corps of Engineers fiscal 2017 work plan, the fiscal 2017 omnibus and the Trump administration's proposals for upgrading U.S. infrastructure.

Friday - The Alliance for Transportation Innovation holds a forum on "leveraging innovation to solve the data sharing challenge" with self-driving vehicles.

TRUMP'S COMMENT WASN'T SO BAD/EVIL: The uproar surrounding Trump's reported complaint that Germans were "evil" or even "bad" (depending on the translation) for selling too

many cars to the United States has died down. European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker insisted Friday that Trump's complaints about the trade imbalance were not "aggressive," reports Tom McTague at POLITICO Europe. Juncker also said he explained to Trump that he should look not look at the U.S. economy's trade balance with Germany but with the European Union as a whole.

Neither are German imports: German auto execs responded that their companies had created 110,000 jobs in the U.S. "For German manufacturers, the U.S. is not just an important market, but more than ever a significant production location," said Association of the Automotive Industry President Matthias Wissmann. U.S. auto industry representatives say they have not asked Trump to restrict German imports. In the past, Trump has threatened Germany with a 35 percent tax on auto imports.

U.S. GETS WORLD BANK ASSISTANCE: In a move some experts see as a quid pro quo for first daughter Ivanka Trump's new $1 billion international women's entrepreneurship fund, World Bank experts are providing technical expertise to the White House team designing an infrastructure package. The Financial Times reports that it's highly unlikely the Bank would finance any projects, and even the provision of expertise to a first world nation is unusual. Some observers worry that Bank President Jim Yong Kim is trying to curry favor with the administration to prevent Trump from cutting U.S. funding to the Bank.

YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO CHECK THAT: TSA discovered a record 82 firearms nationwide last week in passengers' carry-on bags. "Of the 82 firearms discovered, 66 were loaded and 18 had a round chambered," reported the TSA blog. The agency also discovered many knives and a cane sword.

BILLS, BILLS, BILLS:

- Sens. Dan Sullivan and Lisa Murkowski (both R-Alaska) and Mazie Hirono and Brian Schatz (both D-Hawaii) have rolled out a bill (S. 1244) to reauthorize $175 million a year for the Essential Air Service program through fiscal 2022, no doubt playing defense against Trump's budget request to stop appropriating funds for EAS.

- Rep. Grace Meng (D-N.Y.) has put forward a bill (H.R. 2715) to force bus and passenger rail companies as well as cruise lines to refund luggage fees to customers whose bags are delayed or lost.

- Rep. Dan Lipinski (D-Ill.) plans to introduce legislation with provisions related to airline customer issues like delays, fees and tech meltdowns. The bill would mandate a GAO report on air carrier computer systems, among other provisions.

CONGRATULATIONS: The entire Pro Transportation team congratulates Heather Caygle, a former MT scribe who now steers the POLITICO Huddle ship, on her marriage to Pro Tax's Aaron Lorenzo. POLITICO Playbook has the full pool report from the wedding.

SHIFTING GEARS: Former Obama administration spokesman Frank Benenati is starting a

new gig as United Airlines' director of corporate communications in Chicago. Transportation was in Benenati's portfolio in the White House. He later served as director of public affairs for the Environmental Protection Agency.

THE AUTOBAHN:

- "GOP's proposed tax changes are no match for status quo." The Wall Street Journal.

- "How Uber's Vestager play fell flat." POLITICO Europe.

- "As Iran and U.S. leaders trade barbs, big deals proceed." The New York Times.

- "British Airways CEO will not resign despite 'catastrophic' IT failure." The Guardian.

- "CEOs urge Donald Trump to limit scope of NAFTA changes to an 'update.'" The Wall Street Journal.

- "How an airplane laptop ban would expose company data to espionage." Harvard Business Review.

- "In official alerts to its customers, NJ Transit knows whom to blame: Amtrak." POLITICO New York/New Jersey.

- "Trump's budget plan lands with a thud in Middle America." POLITICO Pro.

THE COUNTDOWN: DOT appropriations run out in 124 days. The FAA reauthorization expires in 124 days. Highway and transit policy is up for renewal in 1,220 days.

** **A message from Delta Air Lines:** Our daily briefing: At Delta we're constantly innovating to make your travel smoother. We tapped into RFID technology to keep your bags in check at all times. Giving you more peace of mind from check-in to baggage claim.

Our pursuit of constantly solving problems doesn't stop there. Turbulence is notoriously difficult to predict. That's why we developed our industry-leading Flight Weather Viewer app. It helps our pilots better spot and avoid unexpected turbulence with real-time graphics of observations and forecasts on the flight deck. Making your journey smoother while also reducing our carbon footprint.
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Daily Environment Report

June 27, 2017 - Number 122

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Leading the News

Energy

Quorum Assured at Nuclear Regulatory Commission; Senate Approves Svinicki

The Senate June 26 approved Nuclear Regulatory Commission Chairman Kristine Svinicki for a third term at the agency, just days before her current term expired.

Superfund

Pruitt Could Turn To Superfund Alternative

The Environmental Protection Agency may turn to a contentious alternative in its effort to streamline the Superfund program.

News

Air Pollution

Justices Reject Challenge to EPA Equipment Malfunction Rule

The U.S. Supreme Court will not review an EPA regulation that requires industrial facilities to comply with air pollution limits even when equipment malfunctions.

Chemicals

Correction

The June 16 story, "Less Use of Flame Retardant Lessens Impact of California Rule," was updated to reflect the proper name of the chemical group Methylene Diphenyl Diisocyanates. The online version has been corrected.

Climate Change

China 'Future Proofing' for Climate Change, Researcher Says

China is among the few countries preparing for a day when some coastal populations may

need to move inland due to rising sea levels, according to a Cornell University study.

Corporate Responsibility
European Companies to Report Environmental Risks in 2018
Companies operating in the European Union can lean on non-binding guidance published by the European Commission June 26 when meeting an obligation to begin reporting environmental and social information starting in 2018.

EPA
EPA Call for Advisory Panel Experts Worries Environmentalists
The EPA is seeking scientists to staff an air pollution advisory committee, but some environmental groups worry the Trump administration will replace members finishing their first term and give industry groups more say on scientific matters.

Energy
EU Ministers Move Forward on Energy-Saving Measures
Energy ministers from the European Union's 28 member nations June 26 provisionally agreed to a 30 percent energy efficiency target for the bloc, to be achieved by 2030, and also decided on measures on energy savings for buildings and energy labeling of appliances.

Energy
Tariffs on Solar Panels Seen Slowing Industry Growth by 66%
A trade complaint asking the Trump administration to impose tariffs on solar panels could devastate the U.S. industry, wiping out two-thirds of solar systems forecast to be installed over the next five years, according to a Jund 26 report by GTM Research.

Enforcement
EPA Targets Colorado Oil, Gas Firm in Early Enforcement Action
A Colorado oil and gas firm failed to control air pollution emissions from storage tanks throughout the Denver-Julesburg Basin, the EPA said in a lawsuit alleging violations of the Clean Air Act.

Environmental Justice
Former Environmental Justice Official's Records Sought in Lawsuit
A free-market advocacy group wants to know if a former EPA official has unduly influenced the agency's environmental justice work since leaving the Obama administration.

Hazardous Waste
New Mexico Can't Bring Gold King Waste Claims Against Colorado
The U.S. Supreme Court will not hear New Mexico's claims that Colorado violated federal hazardous waste laws in connection with the Gold King Mine spill.

Natural Gas
Cheniere's LNG Market Share Expands as Korea Contract Starts
Add South Korea to the growing list of regulars buying America's shale gas.

Radioactive Waste
House Panel to Mark Up Yucca Mountain Nuclear Waste Bill
The House Energy and Commerce Committee will mark up legislation June 28 that would restart efforts to make Yucca Mountain the U.S. permanent repository for nuclear waste.

Renewable Energy
China Says Qinghai Province Beats Portugal's Clean-Power Record

The Chinese province of Qinghai in the nation's northwest set a record by using clean energy for seven continuous days, surpassing the previous title-holder Portugal.

Water Infrastructure

Carp Near Great Lakes Renews Fears, Hopes for Action

The discovery of an Asian silver carp June 22 in waters on the South Side of Chicago just nine miles from Lake Michigan has reinforced calls for the Trump administration to release a study with recommendations that might stop the spread of the invasive species.

Water Infrastructure

Federal Scientists Sign Off on California Delta Project

Federal agencies signed off on a plan to re-engineer California's primary water conveyance system, moving the state's proposed $17.1 billion project forward.

Water Pollution

China Indicates Tougher Water, Soil Pollution Laws on Horizon

China's top legislative body is considering tougher penalties for those who pollute the country's water, and indicated it could prohibit the building of homes or schools in areas with contaminated soil.

Water Resources

Peru Makes Water Access Constitutional Right, Sets Up Sewage Plan

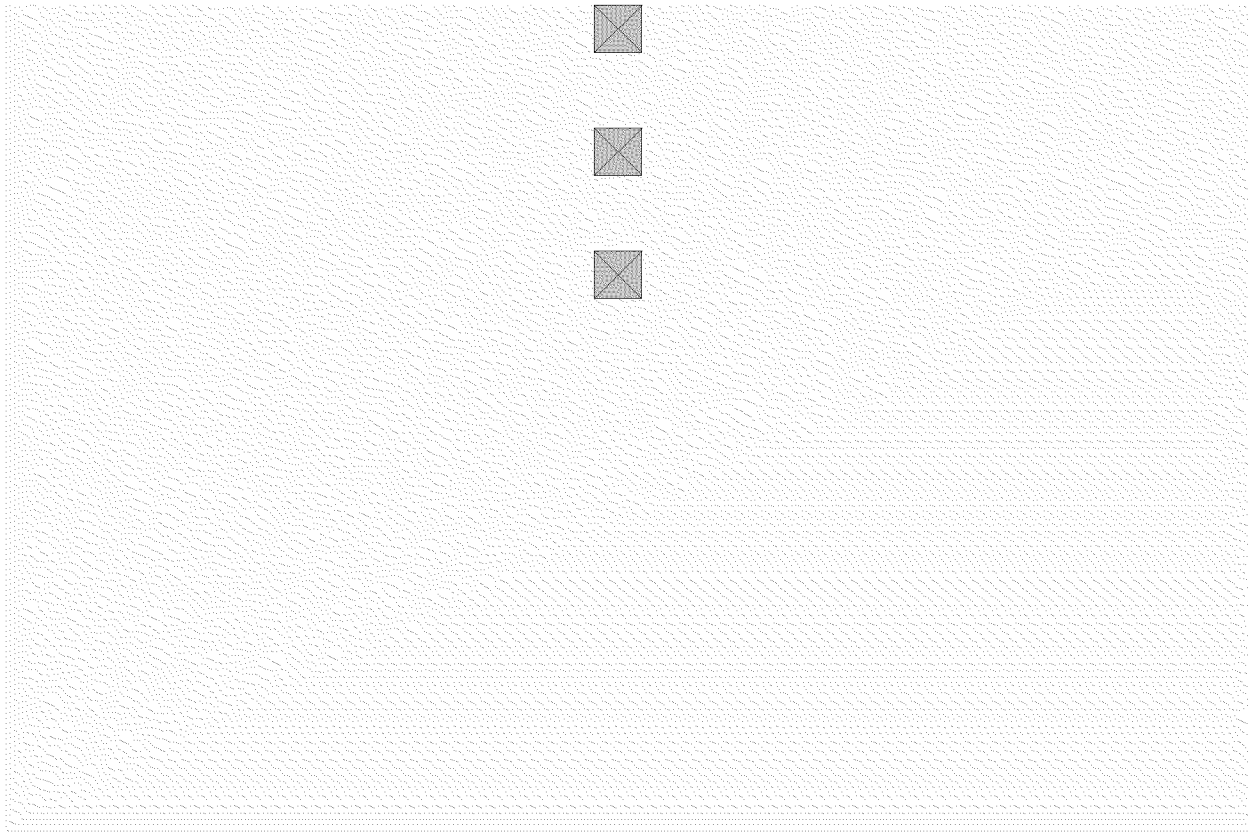
Peru is taking steps to implement President Pedro Pablo Kuczynski's pledge to vastly increase water and wastewater coverage, including modifying the country's Constitution to make water access a constitutional right.

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Daily Environment Report for EPA

To: Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
From: American Security Today
Sent: Fri 7/7/2017 11:33:14 AM
Subject: [SPAM] Chicago Bloody 4th, OH Man & ISIS, ONR Naval S&T, CI Cyber Attack Looms says Black Hat Survey





To: Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
From: Anna Palmer Jake Sherman Daniel Lippman
Sent: Fri 10/27/2017 5:02:42 PM
Subject: Playbook Power Briefing, presented by Chevron: OBAMA to fundraise for DCCC, DSCC -- MCCONNELL WORLD pokes BANNON -- Wieseltier removed from Atlantic masthead -- OLIVIA NUZZI on MICHAEL GRIMM

View online version | Add politicoplaybook@politico.com to your address book.

Today's Playbook Power Briefing presented by Chevron

By ANNA PALMER (anna@politico.com; @apalmerdc), JAKE SHERMAN (sherman@politico.com; @JakeSherman), DANIEL LIPPMAN (daniel@politico.com; @dlippman) and ZACH MONTELLARO (zmontellaro@politico.com; @ZachMontellaro)

GOOD FRIDAY AFTERNOON. SCOOP -- NEW -- OBAMA FUNDRAISES FOR DCCC/DSCC: BARACK OBAMA will be the guest of honor Nov. 14 for the "House and Senate Victory Dinner" in New York, according to a copy of the invite. **HOUSE MINORITY LEADER NANCY PELOSI** and **SENATE MINORITY LEADER CHUCK SCHUMER** are also listed on the invite.

"President Obama's presidency was distinguished by dignity and progress for the American people. His accomplishments are well known - from the longest stretch of private sector job creation to the historic Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act to his leadership in saving the planet to historic Wall Street reforms," Nancy Pelosi wrote to invitees. Contribution levels vary from $15,000 per person to attend the dinner, to up to $100,000 per couple to be listed a dinner chair. ***The invite*** http://politi.co/2xt27lu

FROM MICHAEL CALDERONE -- The Atlantic removes Leon Wieseltier from the masthead: Atlantic editor-in-chief Jeffrey Goldberg told staff Friday that Wieseltier, in light of the sexual harassment allegations against him, will no longer be a contributing editor at the magazine. He noted that Wieseltier's title was "largely honorary in nature," but that in any case, they were removing his name from the masthead. Goldberg reiterated that the magazine has "zero tolerance for workplace harassment of any kind."

SWAMP CHECK -- "Tax Plan Has Lobbyists Swarming, Lawmakers Asking What's in It?" by Bloomberg's Sahil Kapur, Lynnley Browning and Anna Edgerton: "Special interests from realtors to dairy farmers will be trying to save their industry-specific tax breaks, said Tim Phillips, president of Americans for Prosperity. His group, which is backed by billionaire industrialists Charles and David Koch, supports ending such breaks. 'It's pretty fierce,' Phillips said. 'We met with Brady on Tuesday and he was saying their offices are swamped with all the special interest groups swarming in asking to be protected.'

"President Donald Trump has promised that middle-class Americans will be the biggest beneficiaries of the tax overhaul. But it remains to be seen which groups will

lose their advantages -- a necessary step to help pay for cutting tax rates. Even Republican members of [Ways and Means chair Kevin] Brady's committee say they don't know whether any decisions have been made.

"'The problem is that Ways and Means has somewhat been kept out of the loop with details,' Representative Jim Renacci of Ohio, a member of the House tax-writing panel, said in an interview. 'There are still a lot of hurdles to get it done.'" https://bloom.bg/2zUeyZ1

MCCONNELL WORLD VS. BANNON -- Senate Leadership Fund (@Senate_Fund): "Failing @BreitbartNews: traffic plummets 20% this year, desperate for attention! SAD!" ***Linking to an Axios post about media traffic trends*** http://bit.ly/2zTaqIN

LANHEE CHEN in the **NYT: "How Republicans Can Make a Deal on Health Care":** "In my view, Republicans should focus on revisions and improvements to the state-innovation-waiver provision in the A.C.A. As part of that provision, Section 1332 allows states to receive federal financial support in a lump sum and to waive or revise many of Obamacare's most noteworthy provisions, including its mandates, the structure and administration of subsidies provided by it, and covered benefits. In return for this flexibility, states must certify that the changes will still result in coverage that is as comprehensive, affordable and widespread as that provided for under the law." http://nyti.ms/2i7xGuw

ON THE PRESIDENT'S MIND -- @realDonaldTrump at 6:58 a.m.: "Wacky & totally unhinged Tom Steyer, who has been fighting me and my Make America Great Again agenda from beginning, never wins elections!" ... at **6:59 a.m.:** "Thank you @foxandfriends. Really great job and show!" ... **at 7:09 a.m.:** "Congratulations to @SpeakerRyan, @GOPLeader, @SteveScalise and to the Republican Party on Budget passage yesterday. Now for biggest Tax Cuts" ...

... at 7:16 a.m.: "Good luck to @Joy_Villa on her decision to enter the wonderful world of politics. She has many fans!" ... **at 7:38 a.m.:** "JFK Files are being carefully released. In the end there will be great transparency. It is my hope to get just about everything to public!" ... **8:50 a.m.:** "Happy birthday to the great @TheLeeGreenwood. You and your beautiful song have made such a difference. MAKE AMERICA GREAT AGAIN!" ... **at 9:33 a.m.:** "It is now commonly agreed, after many months of COSTLY looking, that there was NO collusion between Russia and Trump. Was collusion with HC!" **... at 10:52 a.m.:** "Diane Black of Tennessee, the highly respected House Budget Committee Chairwoman, did a GREAT job in passing Budget, setting up big Tax Cuts" ***The president also sent a tweet thanking Florida Gov. Rick Scott for thanking him for hurricane recovery efforts.***

MUST BE NICE -- "World's witnessing a new Gilded Age as billionaires' wealth swells to $6tn," by The Guardian's Rupert Neate: "The world's super-rich hold the greatest concentration of wealth since the US Gilded Age at the turn of the 20th century, when families like the Carnegies, Rockefellers and Vanderbilts controlled vast fortunes.

Billionaires increased their combined global wealth by almost a fifth last year to a record $6 [trillion] - more than twice the GDP of the UK. There are now 1,542 dollar billionaires across the world, after 145 multi-millionaires saw their wealth tick over into nine-zero fortunes last year." http://bit.ly/2zTMK7j

ON THE WORLD'S STAGE -- "Spain's Lawmakers Vote to Seize Control of Catalonia," by NYT's Raphael Minder and Patrick Kingsley: "In a major escalation of Spain's territorial conflict, the Spanish Senate on Friday authorized the government to take direct control of the fractious region of Catalonia, just after Catalan lawmakers declared the region's independence. The dueling actions set up a potential showdown over the weekend, as Spain careened into its greatest constitutional crisis since it embraced democracy in 1978.

"The Senate voted 214 to 47 to invoke Article 155 of Spain's Constitution, granting Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy a package of extraordinary powers to suppress Catalonia's independence drive. The measure will go into effect after it is published in the government register, which is expected to happen Friday night. ...

"Undeterred by the government's threat, and after a bitter debate, separatists in the Catalan Parliament passed a resolution to 'create a Catalan republic as an independent state.' Lawmakers opposed to independence walked out of the chamber in protest before the vote." http://nyti.ms/2zUEbZJ

MARK YOUR CALENDAR -- "Carter Page scheduled for House intel committee interview," by Kyle Cheney: "Carter Page, a foreign policy adviser to Donald Trump's 2016 presidential campaign, is scheduled to come before the House intelligence committee next week in its investigation into Russian meddling in the election. ... It's unclear if he plans to cooperate with the House's investigation when he's due to testify on Thursday. Page didn't immediately respond to a request for comment.

"In an advisory, the committee described the interview as 'open' but slated to be held in a 'closed setting.' An aide said that means Page's testimony will be delivered without public or press present, but because the hearing is unclassified, a transcript may be made available later." http://politi.co/2xtMM45

****** **A message from Chevron:** We're piloting a program that uses drones to keep an eye on Chevron wells, tanks, and pipelines-all to keep DOERS and what they're doin' safer. Watch the video: http://politi.co/2zOBJnN ******

GRIMM'S COMEBACK TOUR -- OLIVIA NUZZI in NY Mag, "The Attempted Remaking of Michael Grimm": "Grimm owned one of the most centrist records in the 111th Congress. And then, after only four years in office, he resigned and assumed a new title: inmate 83479-053. He pleaded guilty to one count of tax evasion after first being hit with a 20-count indictment related to his Upper East Side restaurant -- mail and wire fraud, filing false tax returns, perjury, hiring and employing undocumented immigrants, and so on. The establishment was called Healthalicious, and for four years

before arriving in Washington, he was in the business of serving delicacies he called 'gym plates,' post-workout shakes and, obviously, a variety of animal and plant proteins. ...

"But to the extent that Grimm was remembered at all outside of Staten Island once leaving Congress, it wasn't for Healthalicious or any victimless crimes he allegedly or admittedly committed during his stint as Meathead Emeril. It was for threatening to throw a local NY1 reporter 'off the f***ing balcony' in the rotunda and, somewhat repetitively, to 'break' him 'like a boy.' (He told me of that incident: 'It's perceived as if I was out of control in some way. I was 100 percent in control.')

"In a more sane time in our political history, that might have been it for Michael Grimm's political career. Maybe he'd have gotten lucky and ended up a Fox News pundit, or on the speaking circuit somewhere, or quietly and legally running Healthalicious 2.0. Fuhgeddabout holding office again as an ex-con best known for threatening graphic violence against a TV reporter as cameras rolled. But the sane times are over. In the ensuing handful of years, as he served his time in prison and got out, American politics came unglued in such a way that invited his return." http://nym.ag/2xsDWUq

BEN SCHRECKINGER in GQ, "Inside Donald Trump's Shady Scheme to Keep Jon Bon Jovi from Buying the Buffalo Bills": "Back in early 2014, with the team for sale and potential buyers in the process of being narrowed to three finalists-Trump, Buffalo Sabres owner Terry Pegula, and a group of Toronto investors led by Jon Bon Jovi-speculation was rampant that the would-be Canadian buyers planned to move the franchise north of the border. That's when a local fan group sprang up, hoping to turn sentiment in Buffalo against Bon Jovi and his partners. ... [W]hat almost nobody knew-until now-is that the whole thing was pulled together by the then-future president ... In the spring of 2014, Trump hired veteran Republican operative and Buffalo resident Michael Caputo ... to create a group that would scuttle Bon Jovi's NFL chances." http://bit.ly/2i9o2aX

P.R. UPDATE -- "Puerto Rico Is Burning Its Dead, And We May Never Know How Many People The Hurricane Really Killed," by BuzzFeed's Nidhi Prakash: "Funeral directors and crematoriums are being permitted by the Puerto Rican government to burn the bodies of people who died as a result of Hurricane Maria -- without those people being counted in the official death toll. The result is a massive loophole likely suppressing the official death count, which has become a major indicator of how the federal government's relief efforts are going because President Trump himself made it one." http://bzfd.it/2xtR1gh

HMM... -- "Corporate penalties have plunged at SEC since Trump took office," by Patrick Temple-West: "From February through September, the agency, now headed by Wall Street lawyer Jay Clayton, collected $127 million in corporate civil penalties in 15 cases, according to a POLITICO review of SEC data. That compares with $702 million in 43 cases from February through September 2016.

"Notably, in December 2016 and the first 20 days of January 2017 -- just before President Barack Obama's SEC chief, Mary Jo White, stepped down -- the agency collected $231 million in 23 corporate cases. The tally, compiled from cases posted on the SEC's website, includes units of publicly traded companies." http://politi.co/2xsr4h1

FIRST PERSON -- ELEANOR MCMANUS on CNN **-- "Why I'm speaking up about Mark Halperin, and why I stayed I silent so long":** "I don't quite remember what we talked about, but I do remember him asking me to sit down next to him on the couch. I thought it was awkward to sit on the couch when I was perfectly comfortable sitting in the chair across from his desk. But I complied, and I also remember him sitting a little too close to me. At one point I felt a bit too uncomfortable, and I stood up to thank him for the meeting. That's when he leaned in, tried to kiss me, and attempted to do a bit more. I didn't want to offend the man in charge of political programming at ABC News, and I tried to be courteous and apologetic, and practically ran out of the office. ...

"Looking back, knowing what I know now, I should not have been so courteous and apologetic. I should have told him his actions were wrong and reported him to the ABC News HR department. But, as many have said before me, I was young and naive and didn't want to ruin my career before it even began.

"I'm telling my story publicly now because I hope that when this happens again to another young woman, and it will, she will not be so courteous and apologetic. I'm hoping women today will finally speak out in real-time -- when this behavior happens. Women cannot stay silent for fear it will damage their careers, because that only allows the aggressor to continue his behavior with other women." http://cnn.it/2zUl02u

SPORTS BLINK -- "Gaffes, TV ratings concerns dominated as NFL, players forged anthem peace," by ESPN Magazine's Seth Wickersham and Don Van Natta Jr.: "League executives had spent that morning as they had the previous four weeks: grappling with a series of events the league and owners could not control, unleashed by President Donald Trump's harsh criticism of the decision by a handful of players to kneel during the national anthem. Morale was bad inside the league office, and the pressure was not letting up. There was the looming notion that sponsors would leave the NFL -- not just because of the protests but because of an array of challenges confronting the league, including the continuing decline in TV ratings. Nearly all of the league's longtime sponsors, from Papa John's to USAA, were rattled, and fissures within the league offices and teams, to say nothing of the players, were starting to expand." http://es.pn/2zUpqGA

TODAY'S BEYOND THE BELTWAY -- Incoming leader of Florida's state Senate Dems apologizes for affair -- Massachusetts Dems criticize Trump's opioid announcement http://politi.co/2zUzPBR

TRANSITIONS -- Eve Hill and **Regina Kline,** two former Obama-era DOJ civil rights attorneys, have launched Inclusivity Strategic Consulting, a practice focused on

disability inclusion and employment.

RUDY ALUMNI -- LARRY LEVY has been named the 2017 Lawyer of the Year by the Republican National Lawyers Association. Levy, who was chief counsel to the Rudy Giuliani Presidential Committee and served as special counsel for three NYC mayors, is at Greenberg Traurig. http://bit.ly/2gP1aku (h/t Healy Baumgardner, CEO of the 45 Group)

WELCOME TO THE WORLD -- **Chase Downham,** SVP of state operations and grassroots strategies at Americans for Prosperity, and **Gloria Downham** welcomed Dominic Downham. ***Pic*** http://politi.co/2zbVhoX

-- OBAMA ALUMNI -- Sara Aviel, an Obama White House and Treasury alum, and **Marty DiMarzio,** a principal at Deloitte, email friends and family: "We are delighted to welcome Adira Aviel DiMarzio to our family. Adira means 'mighty, strong, and powerful' in Hebrew ... Adira ... weighed 7 lbs 5 oz, measured 19.5" in length, and came with a full head of hair + highlights, a voracious appetite, and a strong grip." ***Pics*** http://bit.ly/2i9V76z ... http://bit.ly/2gM98e3

--HILLARY ALUMNI -- Marisa Greenwald Kenney, an alum of former Sen. Hillary Clinton (D-N.Y.)'s office and Rep. Barney Frank (D-Mass.) now a VP at Parthenon-EY in Boston and **Keith Kenney** of Fidelity welcomed Maxwell Goff Kenney, coming in at 7 pounds and 7 ounces. ***Pic*** http://politi.co/2xsqwal ... ***With uncle Michael Greenwald*** http://politi.co/2zJhyXC

POWER ALUMNI -- Harvard Law School is hosting its bicentennial this week and kicked it off last night with a panel including Supreme Court Chief Justice John Roberts, Justice Anthony Kennedy, Justice Stephen Breyer, Justice Elena Kagan, and retired Justice David Souter.

SPOTTED: Jane Sullivan Roberts, Jane Harman, Joanna Breyer, Robert Zoellick, Michael Chertoff, Lawrence Summers, Sens. Tom Cotton (R-Ark.),Tim Kaine (D-Va.), Jack Reed (D-R.I.), Mark Warner (D-Va.), and Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.), Reps. Sandy Levin (D-Mich.), Joe Kennedy (D-Mass.), Raja Krishnamoorthi (D-Ill.), and Terri Sewell (D-Ala.), Eric Lander, David Gergen, Samantha Power, Anne Marie Slaughter, Loretta Lynch.

OUT AND ABOUT -- The Catholic Information Center held its 6th annual John Paul II Dinner at the Mayflower Hotel last night, honoring the late Fr. Arne Panula. **SPOTTED:** John Sullivan, Fr. Paul Scalia, Rep. Keith Rothfus (R-Pa.), former Rep. Mike Ferguson (R-N.J.), Sean Fieler, Bill Mumma, Montse Alvarado, Greg and Charmaine Mueller, Leonard Leo, Peter Redpath, Bishop Mario Dorsonville, Mitch and Rosie Boersma, Fr. Charles Trullols, Mary Eberstadt, Andrew Walther, and Jeanne Mancini.

--Pool report: "[T]he historic Georgetown property of Congressman and Mrs. Francis Rooney [was the site of] the kick-off of Build our Future PAC (BOF), which supports

conservative millennial candidates. The event had 120 guests and raised more than $70k." **SPOTTED:** Rep. Vern Buchanan (R-Fla.), BOF and Team Rooney Finance Chair Fritz Brogan and Brooke Brogan, Marty Obst, Amb. Joe Russo, Garrett and Ashley Marquis, Wynn Radford, Boris Epshteyn, Reed and Julie Landry, David Tafuri, Jessica Lycos, Scott Preston, Gator Greenwill, Whitney Van Meter, Megan Cummings, Kevin Curran, Ford O'Connell, Meredith Good-Cohn, Michael Bars, Nolan and Casey Harte.

BONUS BIRTHDAYS: Sara Latham ... Emily Vander Weele of Weber Shandwick

****** **A message from Chevron:** This is a story about energy, safety, and some truly high-flyin' doin'. We're piloting a program that uses drones, HD imaging, and thermal mapping to help keep a close eye on Chevron wells, tanks, and pipelines-all to keep DOERS and what they're doin' safer. Watch the video: http://politi.co/2yKBfid ******

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To: Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
From: POLITICO Pro Energy
Sent: Tue 5/23/2017 9:44:19 AM
Subject: Morning Energy, presented by POET: Deep energy cuts in Trump budget but Congress shrugs — Three tapped by Trump for NRC slots — Smith probes actions of EPA scientific integrity official

By Anthony Adragna | 05/23/2017 05:42 AM EDT

With help from Darius Dixon

TRUMP BUDGET DAY: At long last, the budget process really kicks off, but what's arguably most notable about President Donald Trump's first official budget out today is how many members of his own party are greeting it with a shrug. It's unusual for the gulf between the Republican-led White House and Congress to be so vast, but lawmakers have warned for weeks that anything like the March "skinny" budget would not make it through their chambers. With that caution in mind, here are a couple of the highlights from Trump's fiscal 2018 budget request:

— It would restart the nuclear waste fee — a 0.1-cent charge on nuclear power plant owners for each kilowatt-hour of electricity generated — in 2020 to the tune of $381 million. The fee had been pulling in about $750 million a year when states and industry successfully forced DOE to stop collecting it unless the agency reconstituted its Yucca Mountain waste project or Congress changed the law that selected the site.
— It would open up the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge for oil drilling, which the administration estimates would earn Alaska an estimated $1.8 billion over the next decade.
— It calls for the sale of about 250 million barrels of oil from DOE's Strategic Petroleum Reserve, designed to protect the U.S. from oil shocks and which has on occasion kept domestic fuel prices from skyrocketing during national emergencies.
— It seeks to halt to royalty payments to the Gulf Coast states from energy produced in federal waters. The states of Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi and Texas currently receive up to $500 million per year under the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act of 2006.

Overall, the budget calls for EPA to be funded at $5.7 billion, a more than 31 percent cut. It would give DOE funding of $28 billion, a 1.7 percent cut, though it's non-nuclear security work would be slashed 18 percent. Interior would get $11.7 billion, a 10.9 percent cut. The Army Corps of Engineers would have its budget shrunk 16.3 percent to $5 billion. An executive summary of the document is here.

Pro's Ben Lefebvre has more deets on some energy-specific provisions in the budget, while POLITICO's Andrew Restuccia, Matthew Nussbaum and Sarah Ferris look at how it hits Trump's own voters hardest.

TRUMP TO NOMINATE THREE FOR NRC: Faithful readers learned it was coming earlier this month, but the White House formally announced Trump's plans to reappoint Nuclear Regulatory Commission Chairwoman Kristine Svinicki late Monday, Pro's Darius Dixon reports. She faces a serious time crunch and would have to step down, even temporarily, if the Senate doesn't confirm her to another five-year term by June 30. The longtime NRC commissioner is up for a term ending in 2022.

In addition, Trump announced his intent to nominate Annie Caputo and David Wright to two vacant spots on the commission. Caputo, whose term would expire in 2021, currently works on the Senate Environment and Public Works Commission and Wright, a former chairman of the South Carolina Public Service Commission and ex-president of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners, would be up for a seat expiring in 2020.

WELCOME TO TUESDAY! I'm your host Anthony Adragna, and Virgent Realty's Ben Kubic (a longtime ME friend) was first to guess that all 50 states currently produce some wine (can ME interest you in an Idaho Petite Sirah or a Rhode Island Chardonnay or even a Mississippi Sweet Rose)? For today: Who is the wealthiest current member of Congress? Send your tips, energy gossip and comments to aadragna@politico.com, or follow us on Twitter @AnthonyAdragna, @Morning_Energy, and @POLITICOPro.

SMITH CHARGES BIAS BY EPA OFFICIAL REVIEWING PRUITT: House Science Chairman Lamar Smith is questioning the integrity of Francesca Grifo, EPA's scientific integrity official, who he says is skewing heavily toward inviting environmental advocates to an annual stakeholder meeting, Pro's Alex Guillén reports. Grifo in March was asked to look into a complaint that EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt violated the agency's scientific integrity policy by claiming carbon dioxide is not a primary contributor to climate change. A spokeswoman for Smith said his Monday letter, which was also signed by Rep. Andy Biggs, was not about that inquiry but simply about promoting a "diversity of voices" at that meeting. The lawmakers asked Pruitt to either invite more industry representatives to the meeting or open it to the public at large.

SUPERFUND TASK FORCE ANNOUNCED: Pruitt announced the formation of a task force for the agency's Superfund program Monday tasked with delivering recommendations within 30 days on how to improve the program's operation and efficiency. According to a memo released by the agency, the group will be led by Albert Kelly, senior adviser to the administrator, as well as representatives from the Office of Land and Emergency Management, the Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance, the Office of General Counsel and EPA Region 3.

Pointing this out: Pruitt tweeted that he addressed the Large Public Power Council about his plan to bring "energy independence" to the country. It's a frequent talking point for Pruitt, but not one that's part of the agency's historical mission. According to its own website, EPA's purpose is to protect human health and the environment. Pruitt also dropped by the Congressional Coal Caucus meeting Monday where he again talked about energy independence. Another pic.

DOE DEP TO CASH OUT OF SMALL UTILITIES: Dan "Danny" Brouillette, Rick Perry's No. 2-in-waiting for the Energy Department, has agreed to give up interests he holds in four electricity-related entities: the Austin Electric Utility System, Florida utility nonprofit JEA, the Omaha Public Power District, and the Salt River Project. According to the financial disclosure filing associated with his nomination, Brouillette holds somewhere between $60,000 and $200,000 in combined investments in the four utilities he expects to give up, if confirmed by the Senate. Brouillette worked at DOE in the early years of the George W. Bush administration, but has spent nearly 11 years as an executive with USAA. His ethics agreement states that he'll get a

few payments from the bank once he resigns, including a severance within 30 days and deferred compensation payments in 2018 and 2019. Brouillette has a nomination hearing this Thursday.

BILLS MULLED ALTERING OZONE REQUIREMENTS: Lawmakers on a Senate EPW subcommittee gather today to hear testimony on two bills that would tweak regulatory requirements surrounding EPA's ozone standards. One, the Ozone Standards Implementation Act (S. 263), would extend state deadlines to submit implementation plans for the revised 2015 ozone standard of 70 parts per billion until 2026 and extend the review cycle for EPA from five to 10 years. The other bill, the ORDEAL Act (S. 452), would also lengthen the statutory period for reviewing and updating National Ambient Air Quality Standards from five years to 10, while delaying enforcement of the revised 2015 standard until 2025. Ahead of the session, 14 health groups released a letter opposing the Ozone Standards Implementation Act.

** **A message from POET - one of the world's largest ethanol producers:** With scientists and engineers, POET operates 30 biofuel facilities & America's first cellulosic biofuel plant. We produce a cleaner fuel for millions of drivers, every day. We're POET and we're driving innovation, from the ground up. Learn more here. **

SCIENCE PANEL LOOKS AT STATE ROLE IN RULEMAKING: The House Science Subcommittee on Environment gathers today to look at interactions between federal and state environmental agencies as EPA develops regulations like regional haze, ozone and cross-state air pollution. Two top state environmental regulators — Arizona's Misael Cabrera and Arkansas' Becky Keogh — are the majority witnesses, while Deborah Swackhamer, chairwoman of the embattled EPA Board of Scientific Counselors, is the Democratic witness. Expect significant questioning on Pruitt's efforts to reshape the scientific advisory board by reopening the nomination process.

CARPER SEEKS INFO ON EPA ENFORCEMENT: Top Senate EPW Democrat Tom Carper released a letter Monday seeking information from Pruitt related to potential settlements between Devon Energy and the agency. He also requested broader information on EPA enforcement work. The letter stemmed from a New York Times report that said Devon backed out of a settlement with the agency five days after Pruitt's confirmation.

MORE CLIMATE VOICES WEIGH IN: As Germany's environment minister Barbara Hendricks warned Monday of serious consequences should the U.S. leave the Paris climate change agreement, Citizens for Responsible Energy Solutions sent a memo to Secretary of State Rex Tillerson and White House international energy aide George David Banks urging the U.S. to renegotiate aspects of the accord but to remain a part of it. Meanwhile, the Partnership for Responsible Growth is out with the third in a series of TV ads airing on CNN, Fox News and MSNBC programs known to be watched by Trump urging action to address climate change.

MAIL CALL! BENNET, HICKENLOOPER FIGHT FOR MONUMENTS: Two top Colorado Democrats — Sen. Michael Bennet and Gov. John Hickenlooper — have asked Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke not to alter any existing national monument designations in their state. "Such actions would deprive the future generations of Americans who have yet to experience these iconic landscapes or study their rich history," they wrote in a letter.

SENATORS URGE PRESERVATION OF PARK RULE: Sens. Bill Nelson (D-Fla.), Tom Udall (D-N.M.), Lamar Alexander (R-Tenn.) and Rob Portman (R-Ohio) sent a letter to Zinke urging him to preserve an Obama-era regulation overseeing oil drilling on park lands. "The National Park Service developed updates to their 9B rule over the course of several years, engaging in a thorough and transparent public process that sought input from a variety of stakeholders," they wrote. Zinke ordered a review of the regulation in late March in response to Trump's executive order calling for the review any policy that could potentially hinder domestic energy production.

GREENS URGE NO OFFSHORE DRILLING: More than 130 environmental advocacy groups, including the Natural Resources Defense Council, Earthworks, Greenpeace and Rainforest Action Network, sent Zinke a letter Monday urging him against moving forward on plans to expand offshore oil drilling and related seismic testing.

STABENOW CHALLENGER HAS ENERGY TIES: Lena Epstein, co-owner of Vesco Oil Corp., which distributes automotive and industrial lubricants, announced Monday she'll challenge Debbie Stabenow for her Senate seat. "I will take the fight directly to Debbie Stabenow because she has failed the people of Michigan after almost two decades in Washington with no major accomplishments," she said in a statement announcing her candidacy. She co-chaired Trump's 2016 campaign in the state.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY! Senate Energy and Natural Resources Chairman Lisa Murkowski celebrated her birthday Monday! She tweeted she spent her weekend "at Anchorage farmers market" followed by "a dream picnic on Ruth Glacier on Denali w/ family." Zinke added his best wishes and said he was "looking forward to seeing Alaska's gorgeous and iconic public lands some time!"

MOVER, SHAKER: Maggie Molina has been named senior director of policy for the American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy; Pasha Majdi also joins the organization as federal policy manager from his previous role as a professional staff member on Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee.

The Energy Policy Institute at the University of Chicago has named **Jeff Holmstead**, former top air official at EPA, and **Sue Tierney**, former assistant secretary for policy at DOE, as its inaugural visiting fellows in policy practice.

Loren Blackford has become the next president of the Sierra Club's board of directors as the organization elected its first-ever all female executive committee. Other members of the board are Vice President Susana Reyes of California, Treasurer Elizabeth Walsh of Texas, Secretary Robin Mann of Pennsylvania, and Fifth Officer Margrete Strand-Rangnes.

TAKE A GLANCE! NATIONAL MONUMENTS SPOTLIGHTED: House Natural Resources Democrats released the first in a weekly series of fact sheets spotlighting national monuments currently under review by the Trump administration. First up: the Canyons of the Ancients National Monument.

The Sierra Club released a video urging voters to resist EPA cuts in the Trump budget by calling their members of Congress. It will air in Missouri, Maine, Montana, Ohio and Pennsylvania, as well as on social media.

NATSO, the National Association of Convenience Stores and the Society of Independent Gasoline Marketers of America are out with a video examining what they say would be the negative impact of the shift the Point of Obligation under the Renewable Fuel Standard.

BORDER TAX DOC RELEASED: The Joint Committee on Taxation released an informational report Monday on border adjustment tax proposals that would have significant impacts on the energy sector. More from Pro Tax's Brian Faler here.

QUICK HITS

— White House Moves to Block Ethics Inquiry Into Ex-Lobbyists on Payroll. New York Times.

— EPA Experts Increasingly Shut Out of Public Statements, Some Complain. Bloomberg BNA.

— How a Small Town Is Standing Up to Fracking. Rolling Stone.

— 2 More Leaks Found Along Dakota Access Pipeline. AP.

— Chinese Solar Makers Shown $55 Million Path to Avoid Tariffs. Bloomberg.

— Interior Department agency removes climate change language from news release. Washington Post.

— Ken Salazar Working For Anadarko After Promising To Honor Federal Ethics Law. International Business Times.

HAPPENING TODAY

10:00 a.m. — House Science subcommittee hearing on states and EPA rulemaking, 2318 Rayburn

10:00 a.m. — Legislative hearing on four bills, House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Federal Lands, 1324 Longworth

10:00 a.m. — "Balance for Oil, Imbalance for LNG?" Center for Strategic and International Studies, 1616 Rhode Island Avenue, NW

11:30 a.m. — The American Biogas Council, the Coalition for Renewable Natural Gas and the Environmental and Energy Study Institute host a lunch briefing on "the untapped energy in domestic wastes," 201-00 Capitol Visitor Center (Senate side)

11:30 a.m. — Labor and environmental groups release a new report on clean car technology building, RSVP: nconger@nrdc.org

1:00 p.m. — 2017 RNG Summit Industry, Policy & Regulatory Forum, American Gas Association, 400 N Capitol St NW #450

2:30 p.m. — Senate Environment and Public Works subcommittees hold hearing on two ozone bills, 406 Dirksen

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To view online:
https://www.politicopro.com/tipsheets/morning-energy/2017/05/deep-energy-cuts-in-trump-budget-but-congress-shrugs-022957

Stories from POLITICO Pro

Trump budget would open ANWR, stop oil payments to Gulf states Back

By Ben Lefebvre | 05/22/2017 09:03 PM EDT

The Trump administration's budget proposal calls for opening the the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge for oil drilling, halting energy royalty payments to states along the Gulf of Mexico and selling off half of the country's strategic oil reserves.

The measures, which the White House says would trim $22 billion from the deficit over the next decade, are sure to draw criticism from Congress, and will anger environmentalists who oppose opening the Alaska wildlife refuge, as well as state governments along the Gulf.

President Donald Trump has promised to sharply expand oil and gas production, particularly in federal waters, but the budget proposal would represent a blow to the states of Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi and Texas, whose coastal waters are home to the vast majority of the nation's offshore energy production.

The White House estimates that repealing the law that allots royalty payments to the Gulf Coast states from energy produced in federal waters would save $3.6 billion through 2027. Under the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act of 2006, each state receives up to $500 million per year — money Trump aims to keep in federal coffers.

But the budget proposal would earn Alaska an estimated $1.8 billion over the next decade by opening up ANWR for oil and gas drilling, a move that Alaska's Republican Sens. Lisa Murkowski and Dan Sullivan have called for in a bill they submitted in January.

The ANWR proposal, which follows Trump's already contentious attempts to open up Arctic waters off Alaska's northern shore for drilling, would be sure to draw fire from conservation groups that for decades have opposed opening up the 19-million-acre onshore wildlife refuge for drilling.

The White House also said it could shrink the federal deficit by $16.6 billion over the coming decade by selling off half the oil that the Department of Energy holds for emergencies. The sale from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve would total about 250 million barrels — based on Energy Information Administration figures — and is based on an oil price of about $66 a barrel, about 30 percent higher than the current price.

The sale of half the SPR inventories that are stored in four underground storage facilities in Texas and Louisiana does not go as far as the recommendations from the conservative Heritage Foundation, which has argued that all of the reserves should be sold.

The reserves have played a part in keeping fuel prices from skyrocketing during national emergencies. DOE issued about 20.8 million barrels from the reserves in 2005 after Hurricane Katrina shut refineries along the Gulf Coast, bringing about a quarter of the country's fuel production to a halt.

DOE also loaned Marathon Petroleum 1 million barrels of oil for three months when Tropical Storm Isaac shut down oil production in the Gulf Coast in 2012.

Also among the more arcane revenue generators in Trump's budget is a plan to sell off tens of thousands of miles of publicly owned electric transmission assets in the Midwest and Pacific Northwest owned by the Western Area Power Administration, the Southwestern Power Administration, and the Bonneville Power Administration.

The White House estimates that the sale would bring in $2.4 billion in 2019, with continuing income as Bonneville assets are sold off over 10 years.

Eric Wolff contributed to this story.

To view online click here.

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Trump's budget hits his own voters hardest Back

By Andrew Restuccia, Matthew Nussbaum and Sarah Ferris | 05/22/2017 09:00 PM EDT

Donald Trump, whose populist message and promises to help American workers propelled him to the White House, is set to issue a budget proposal on Tuesday that instead takes aim at the social safety net on which many of his supporters rely.

Rather than breaking with Washington precedent, Trump's spending blueprint follows established conservative orthodoxy, cutting taxes on the wealthy, boosting defense spending and taking a hatchet to programs for the poor and disabled - potentially hurting many of the rural and low-income Americans that voted him into office.

The budget proposal underscores the wide gulf between campaigning and governing, even for a president who promised to rewrite the presidential rule book.

The president's budget plan calls for more than $1 trillion in cuts to a wide range of social programs with millions of beneficiaries, from farm subsidies to federal student aid. That includes a $600 billion cut to Medicaid over 10 years, despite Trump's repeated promises on the campaign trail not to cut the program. The budget also takes an ax to the federal food stamp program and Social Security Disability Insurance.

Trump also proposes some of the deepest cuts to agriculture subsidies since Ronald Reagan, squeezing out nearly $50 billion over 10 years.

Trump's budget would drastically cut domestic programs controlled by Congress, slashing $1.7 trillion over 10 years. At the end of the decade, the U.S. would spend nearly twice as much on defense as on other domestic programs. Domestic discretionary spending would be capped at $429 billion per year, below 2004 levels, while military spending soars to $722 billion.

The annual budget proposal - which has no chance of becoming law as proposed even though Republicans control Congress because GOP lawmakers write their own budget - serves as a starting point for negotiations and as a messaging document for the president and his party.

"There's a certain philosophy wrapped up in the budget and that is — we are no longer going to measure compassion by the number of programs or the number of people on those programs," White House Office of Management and Budget Director Mick Mulvaney, one of the budget's chief architects, told reporters on Monday. "We're not going to measure our success by how much money we spend, but by how many people we actually help."

Mulvaney rejected accusations that Trump's budget unfairly targets the poor, arguing instead that it amounts to a broad rethink of the country's welfare system.

"We need folks to work. We need people to go to work. If you're on food stamps, and you're able-bodied, we need you to go to work. If you're on disability insurance and you're not supposed to be, we need you to work," he added. "There's a dignity to work, and there's a necessity to work."

Mulvaney, a former South Carolina congressman and founding member of the conservative Freedom Caucus, has long sought dramatic cuts to Medicaid and other programs.

Mulvaney said the budget does not touch "mainline" or "core" Social Security, but it does cut Social Security's disability insurance. The White House is also leaning on anti-fraud programs to save billions of dollars in Medicare.

The White House plans to heavily promote its commitment to Social Security and Medicare, though its attempt to eliminate the federal deficit while largely preserving those entitlement programs — which together make up the bulk of federal spending — will leave behind a path of destruction for other safety net programs.

Trump's budget would tighten the belt on programs for low-income families ranging from cash assistance to the child tax credit. Nearly $200 billion in cuts will come directly from the federal food stamp program, which helps feed 44 million people each year.

Trump would also slash $72 billion by tightening the rules for programs for people with disabilities — programs that Trump's advisers have described as riddled with fraud and abuse. A federal watchdog, however, found last year that 17 anti-fraud programs already exist.

In an administration document outlining budget talking points, the White House pitched its proposal as a way to replace "dependency with dignity of work." The internal guidance, which POLITICO obtained early Monday, highlights an estimated $193 billion in savings by further limiting who can receive food stamps. The administration estimates $40 billion in savings over 10 years by preventing illegal immigrants from claiming the Child Tax Credit and Earned Income Tax Credit, which provides a break to households making up to about $53,000 per year, depending on family size and filing status.

"If I had sort of a subtitle for this budget, it would be the 'Taxpayer First' budget," Mulvaney said Monday. "This is, I think, the first time in a long time that an administration has written a budget through the eyes of the people who are actually paying the taxes. So often in Washington I think we look only on the recipient side — how does the budget affect those who either receive or don't receive benefits?"

Democrats, who have opposed cuts announced in drafts released earlier this year, reiterated their objections ahead of the budget's release.

"Candidate Trump campaigned as a populist, said he wanted to help the working people, but since he has taken office he has governed like a hard-right conservative — pushing policies that help the uber wealthy at the expense of the middle class," Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer said in a statement Sunday night.

"It's a complete about-face," said Seth Hanlon, a former economic adviser to Barack Obama. "It's a betrayal of a lot of people who put their faith in him."

But even some Republicans — both inside and outside Congress — say they're worried about the sheer magnitude of the proposed cuts.

"I'm deeply concerned about the severity of the domestic cuts," Rep. Hal Rogers (R-Ky.), a long-

time member of the powerful House Appropriations Committee, told POLITICO on Friday.

Rogers has been an outspoken critic of Trump's proposed cuts to programs that benefit rural regions like his home state, like the Appalachian Regional Commission.

"I think we do need healthcare reform. I think we do need welfare reform. But the kinds of reductions that he's talking about go exactly against the states that brought [Trump] to the dance, so to speak," said G. William Hoagland, a former long-time Republican Senate budget aide.

He added, "The argument can be made that there are certainly programs that are not achieving their goals. That doesn't mean we should take the money away and forget about it."

The White House says it expected a "mixed" reaction from Hill Republicans, according to a senior administration official. The defense hikes and tax cuts are sure to be popular, but many of the cuts could make more moderate Republicans skittish. "It's more than a messaging document and it begins the negotiations," the official said.

Republicans on Capitol Hill are expected to deliver their rebuttal to the White House's budget proposal in mid-June, about two months behind schedule.

While the congressional document is also in many ways a wish list, it serves to set the spending levels that lawmakers must abide by the ensuing year. The delay of that document means appropriators will face a time crunch ahead of the September deadline to fund the government or avert a shutdown.

The Trump administration is relying on more than aggressive cuts to mandatory programs to achieve its goal of eliminating the deficit within 10 years - a gold standard of budget writing.

The White House is also making a rosy assumption of 3 percent economic growth - nearly double the 1.9 percent rate estimated by Congress' nonpartisan scorekeeper - to help offset its ambitious spending plans. That includes $200 billion for new infrastructure projects as well as $19 billion for paid family leave.

The budget blueprint also assumes that Trump's tax reform plan, which is still in the early stages of being written, will go into effect. Officials said that plan is expected to deliver a boost to the economy without adding to its bottom line, but produced no details beyond a one-page document released in April.

Trump's proposed budgets for federal departments and agencies next year are mostly unchanged from the so-called skinny budget the administration released earlier this year, despite the public outcry from some disgruntled Cabinet members

A half-dozen agencies got slight boosts in their budgets, however, including those in the departments of Agriculture, Interior and Labor. The State Department, which faced some of the harshest cuts in Trump's first budget draft, is slated for a $2.6 billion bump compared with the March numbers.

Jennifer Scholtes contributed to this report.

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Sources: Trump expected to announce NRC nominees Back

By Darius Dixon | 05/02/2017 11:34 AM EDT

President Donald Trump is expected to soon announce nominees for a pair of vacant seats on the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, according to two sources who closely track the agency.

Nuclear expert Annie Caputo and former South Carolina utility regulator David Wright are to be nominated, the sources said. And Trump plans to tap NRC Chairwoman Kristine Svinicki for another five-year term after her term expires June 30.

The timing of the announcement is unclear.

Caputo, who previously worked for Sen. Jim Inhofe and the House Energy and Commerce Committee, has been a subject of nomination chatter among industry and NRC watchers for nearly two years. She joined Sen. John Barrasso's staff when the Wyoming Republican took over the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee earlier this year.

Wright, a former chairman of the South Carolina Public Service Commission and ex-president of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners, has long been vocal about addressing the nation's stockpiles of nuclear waste stored at reactor sites around the country. He later started his own consulting firm.

The White House did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

WHAT'S NEXT: A formal White House nomination is still needed in order for the Senate Environment and Public Works to process the candidates. Svinicki's term expires on June 30 and, unlike with many other federal boards and commissions, she would have to step down temporarily if the Senate fails to confirm her by that date.

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Trump to tap Caputo and Wright for NRC, renominate Svinicki Back

By Darius Dixon | 05/22/2017 08:02 PM EDT

President Donald Trump intends to nominate Annie Caputo and David Wright to a pair of vacant seats on the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, while reappointing agency Chairwoman Kristine Svinicki, the White House announced tonight.

Svinicki, who had been an NRC commissioner for nine years before Trump elevated her to the chairmanship in January, is facing a time crunch. Unlike many other federal boards and commissions, NRC leadership members would have to step down, even temporarily, if the Senate fails to confirm for another five-year term by June 30. She'll be up for a term ending in 2022.

Caputo, who previously worked for Sen. Jim Inhofe and the House Energy and Commerce Committee, has been a subject of nomination chatter among industry and NRC watchers for nearly two years. She joined Sen. John Barrasso's staff when the Wyoming Republican took over the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee earlier this year, and is to be appointed to term expiring in 2021.

Wright, a former chairman of the South Carolina Public Service Commission and ex-president of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners, has long been vocal about addressing the nation's stockpiles of nuclear waste stored at reactor sites around the country. He later started his own consulting firm. The White House plans to put him up for a seat expiring in 2020.

POLITICO reported all three names earlier this month.

WHAT'S NEXT: The White House still needs to send the nominations to the Senate before the Senate Environment and Public Works can process the candidates. Svinicki's term expires on June 30 and she would have to step down temporarily if the Senate fails to confirm her by then.

To view online click here.

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Smith alleges bias from EPA scientific integrity official Back

By Alex Guillén | 05/22/2017 05:30 PM EDT

House Science Chairman Lamar Smith is questioning the integrity of an EPA official charged with reviewing Administrator Scott Pruitt's public comments expressing doubts about climate change science.

Smith, citing emails obtained by his committee, says Francesca Grifo, EPA's scientific integrity official, overwhelmingly favored environmental advocates when she invited 45 groups to an annual stakeholder meeting planned for next month.

Grifo in March was asked to look into the Sierra Club's complaint that Pruitt violated the agency's scientific integrity policy when he said during a TV appearance that that carbon dioxide is not the primary driver of global warming, a statement that contradicts the prevailing consensus among climate scientists.

A spokeswoman for Smith said Monday's letter about Grifo's meeting was not inspired by her inquiry into Pruitt and that Smith wants to promote a "diversity of voices" at Grifo's meeting.

The upcoming meeting, which is not directly related to Grifo's Pruitt probe, is for 45 representatives from select groups for Grifo to "answer your questions, share current scientific integrity initiatives, and discuss future plans for scientific integrity at EPA," according to an email from Grifo that Smith cites. The committee did not release the full emails it obtained but shared copies of the text of the email and invite list with POLITICO.

Smith calls on Pruitt to either invite more industry representatives to the meeting or open it to the public at large.

"Science does indeed provide the underpinnings for EPA's decision-making, and it is essential in gaining public trust and support that EPA's scientific integrity programs and activities be transparent and accessible to all with an interest in EPA actions," Smith and Rep. Andy Biggs (R-Ariz.) wrote in a letter to Pruitt on Monday.

EPA did not provide a comment on the record.

The list of invitees to the June 14 meeting include environmental groups like Earthjustice, the Natural Resources Defense Council and the Union of Concerned Scientists, where Grifo worked prior to joining EPA in 2013. All those groups, Smith says, skew "decidedly toward pro-regulation environmental activism."

The list also included Christy Goldfuss, who ran the White House Council on Environmental Quality during Barack Obama's final years in office and has since returned to the Center for American Progress. Also invited were groups like the American Association for the Advancement of Science, Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility, the Project on Government Oversight and the AFL-CIO, along with several journalism groups such as the Society of Environmental Journalists and Wisconsin Public Radio. The list also included was Demos, a liberal think tank connected to billionaire George Soros.

Grifo also invited the American Chemistry Council, an industry group that was closely involved in negotiations over the 2016 overhaul to the Toxic Substances Control Act. But aside from that group, she did not invite state-level officials or anyone "representing the views and interests of industries impacted by agency decisions underpinned by EPA's scientific programs," Smith and Biggs wrote.

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EPA watchdog examining Pruitt climate comments Back

By Alex Guillén | 03/31/2017 05:25 PM EDT

EPA's scientific integrity officer will look into a complaint about EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt's comment earlier this month that carbon dioxide is a not the primary driver of global warming.

In an email today to the Sierra Club, which made the complaint on March 14, an official in the EPA inspector general's office said the issue has been referred to EPA's scientific integrity official, Francesca Grifo. The inspector general typically does not wade into scientific disputes at the agency, and standard protocol is to refer such matters Grifo for further investigation.

"The SIO will be reviewing your letter and determining best course of action," the OIG official wrote today in an email shared with POLITICO. "If after the SIO review, she concludes there is some aspect of the letter itself, or her findings or conclusions that she believes are appropriate for further consideration by the OIG, she will so notify the OIG."

"We're glad the independent and professional staff at the EPA are apparently taking steps to consider this serious issue and we're hopeful that this process ultimately causes Pruitt to correct the record and stop falsifying science, or, if he is incapable of accepting the scientific consensus on climate, to get out of the environmental protection business altogether," Sierra Club attorney Elena Saxonhouse said in a statement.

Before joining EPA in 2013, Grifo spent eight years at the Union of Concerned Scientists. She has a Ph.D. in botany from Cornell University.

Reuters first reported the letter today.

WHAT'S NEXT: Grifo will review Pruitt's comment and determine whether it violated EPA's scientific integrity policy.

To view online click here.

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Pruitt to seek new EPA scientific advisers Back

By Annie Snider | 05/04/2017 04:32 PM EDT

EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt is reopening the nomination process for outside scientific counselors to advise the agency on research and development, according to internal agency emails obtained by POLITICO.

In an email to staffers yesterday, Office of Policy chief Samantha Dravis said Pruitt would not be moving forward at this time with the reappointment of nine members of the Board of Scientific Counselors whose terms expired last week, and that political leaders "would like to re-open the nominations process." The board is a federal advisory committee currently made up of 18 members that provides advice and recommendations to EPA's Office of Research and Development. It has tackled issues ranging from methods for evaluating lead exposure to wildfire smoke risks in recent years.

The move comes as congressional Republicans have been pushing to alter the process by which science is overseen and used to inform regulations at EPA — changes that GOP lawmakers say would promote fairness and transparency, but that environmental groups argue would give more influence to industry.

EPA political leaders also opted to withdraw the agency program from consideration for a Harvard University Kennedy School of Government award. According to the emails, the Federal Community of Practice on Crowdsourcing and Citizen Science, a program co-chaired by EPA to help government agencies with citizen science initiatives, is a finalist for the Innovations in American Government Awards. Pruitt needed to sign a form in order for the program to move forward in the competition, but Dravis informed staffers yesterday that "the Administrator will not be moving forward at this time" with the award.

Last week, EPA said it removed "outdated language" referring to Obama-era programs that President Donald Trump has targeted for elimination, including virtually all mentions of climate change.

To view online click here.

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Top Senate tax aides still have basic questions about border adjustments Back

By Brian Faler | 05/22/2017 03:29 PM EDT

Lawmakers have been debating the House's border adjustment plan for months now, but some of the Senate's top tax aides say they still have basic questions about how it would work.

Mark Prater, a senior aide to Senate Finance Chairman Orrin Hatch, said he still doesn't know how much money it would raise or how it would affect people at different income levels.

Prater said he doesn't know if it would be borne mainly by consumers or businesses, or paid partly by foreigners.

"I don't have an official score, I don't have distribution tables," he told a panel on tax reform today. Who would bear the burden of the tax is a "critical question" because the border

adjustment plan is "an obviously very material part of the plan."

His comments came as the House Ways and Means Committee is slated Tuesday to convene its first hearing on the plan.

Vic Fleischer, a top tax aide to Sen. Ron Wyden (D-Ore), complained Republicans are trying to write "a completely new tax system" behind "closed doors," adding that he wonders how the plan would treat partnerships and financial service firms.

"If there are answers to these questions — maybe there are — I'd like to see them sometime before the bill shows up for a vote," he told the panel.

Ahead of the Ways and Means hearing, the Joint Committee on Taxation released an informational report on border adjustment tax proposals.

To view online click here.

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By Anthony Adragna | 09/08/2017 10:00 AM EDT

With help from Eric Wolff, Alex Guillén, Esther Whieldon and Eric Geller

GLIMPSES INTO DECEMBER DEBATE: House lawmakers churned through about 70 of the 80 amendments related to EPA and Interior during a debate on a spending package H.R. 3354 (115) Thursday evening. Final votes on the overall measure will now occur next week, but the results so far offer some glimpse into what may happen during the forthcoming December government funding debate, so here are some highlights:

1. There's love for addressing park maintenance (a priority for Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke)! In a voice vote, lawmakers backed an amendment adding $9.7 million to address the backlog.

2. An effort to restore funding to EPA's environmental justice program by cutting from the Interior secretary's budget fell short by a vote of 190 to 218.

3. Rep. John Katko's amendment to restore $250 million in Clean Water State Revolving Funds, an infrastructure program that typically enjoys broad bipartisan support, passed by voice vote.

4. Republican Frank LoBiondo and Democrat Don Beyer's bipartisan push to block offshore drilling in a host of Atlantic sites came up short on a voice vote.

5. An amendment giving EPA $6 million to implement a long-term monitoring program for water quality of the waters affected by the Gold King Mine spill passed the House 220 to 191.

6. Rep. Scott Perry's amendment to block EPA from issuing any regulations under Section 115 of the Clean Air Act, an obscure section of the statute some fear could be used to force carbon rules, passed by voice vote.

Rather extraordinary: Rep. Don Young had to apologize after calling Democratic Rep. Pramila Jayapal a "young lady" who "doesn't know a damn thing what she's talking about" concerning his amendment blocking regulations on sport hunting and trapping in national preserves in Alaska. He apologized later, though his amendment passed 215 to 196. Video here.

Reminder: This bill won't become law in anything approaching its current form and likely won't resemble the Senate's version, so take its contents with a grain of salt. That said, a bunch of amendments will get votes next week.

TGIF EVERYONE! I'm your host Anthony Adragna, and New York was home to the first ATM in the U.S. way back in 1969. For today: How many states have had a lawmaker serve as president pro tempore of the Senate? Send your tips, energy gossip and comments to

aadragna@politico.com, or follow us on Twitter @AnthonyAdragna, @Morning_Energy, and @POLITICOPro.

CONGRATS! ME's warmest wishes go out to our own Annie Snider and her husband, Joel, as they welcomed Henry Terhune Kirkland into the world in the wee hours of Tuesday morning. "He is passing all his tests with flying colors and we are quite certain he is the most incredible little guy ever!" Annie writes.

GOTTA GET RIGHT BACK TO WHERE WE WEHRUM: Pros learned it was coming in July, but Bill Wehrum, a George W. Bush-era EPA official who has represented a variety of energy industry interests at law firm Hunton & Williams, received President Donald Trump's formal nod Thursday to run EPA's powerful air office, Pro's Alex Guillén reports . He's been critical of EPA's authority to regulate greenhouse gases, even after the Supreme Court's 2007 ruling saying the agency did have such authority. Democrats blocked his nomination from proceeding in the Senate during the Bush administration, though the threshold has since been lowered to just a majority level to clear the chamber.

FLORIDA PREPS FOR IRMA: EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt, seeking to ensure there's enough fuel for Florida as Hurricane Irma bears down on it, on Thursday extended a fuel waiver for summer reformulated fuel requirements for 38 states through Sept. 30, Pro's Ben Lefebvre and Bruce Ritchie report . "It was important to send a message I think to the citizens of Florida but also those producing gasoline they would have certainty to the end of September with respect to these issues," Pruitt said in an interview. "And we'll do it beyond that obviously if necessary. We have the authority to do that." That comes as Florida Gov. Rick Scott told reporters the state was working to mitigate any potential fuel shortages. "While we are making progress, you will see lines and outages, unfortunately," he added. "I know this is frustrating. We are laser-focused on how we get as much fuel as possible to our ports while they remain open."

Getting Superfund sites ready: Perhaps learning a lesson from Hurricane Harvey, EPA said Thursday evening it's assessing 80 Superfund sites from Miami to North Carolina for potential vulnerabilities to the impending storm. The agency also said it has 43 Region 2 personnel and 34 from Region 4 responding to the storm.

Pruitt: 'Not now': Pruitt also told CNN Thursday now is not the time to discuss whether climate change has exacerbated these hurricanes. "To have any kind of focus on the cause and effect of the storm; versus helping people, or actually facing the effect of the storm, is misplaced," he said. Instead, the focus should be on ensuring access to clean water and protecting Superfund sites, among other issues, he said. His comments echo those made by Energy Secretary Rick Perry last week.

Cornyn won't go there either: Texas' John Cornyn, the Senate's No. 2 Republican, told ME he wasn't sure if climate change exacerbated the storm that slammed his state last week. "Beats the heck out of me," he said. "I've never read anything on [that] point." Asked if it people should be debating the link right now, he said: "It's a free country."

** **A message from Chevron:** When an endangered butterfly was found near a Chevron

refinery, we protected the habitat and still plant the only thing they eat-buckwheat. Watch the video: http://politi.co/2xaoDCa **

IF I WAS A RICH MAN, YEAH I'D HAVE ALL THE ARPA-E: Microsoft co-founder Bill Gates lauded DOE's ARPA-E program and urged strong congressional support for what he called the potential "key" to major energy breakthroughs. "Private companies depend on public research," he wrote on his personal blog. "ARPA-E is bringing private investors to the table, and it is delivering results." Gates' strong endorsement comes as a bipartisan group of House lawmakers, including top Science ranking member Eddie Bernice Johnson , introduced legislation H.R. 3681 (115) authorizing reasonable growth in funding for ARPA-E through 2022.

A WARNING ON GRID HACKS: Senior cybersecurity officials warned Thursday that hackers are growing more audacious in exploiting dangerous links between critical infrastructure systems and the business networks of their operators. "We have control systems that are connected to business systems," said John Felker, the director of the Department of Homeland Security's cyber watch center, during a panel at the Intelligence and National Security Summit. "The biggest thing we see is that vulnerability of that connection." Some sectors, he said, "have done a good job of segregating that, but others have not." His comments came one day after Symantec said that suspected Russian hackers may have begun a new phase of power company hacking. Scott Smith, head of the FBI's Cyber Division, said, "This is an area that there's no easy solutions to."

STEPPING UP FOR HARVEY RELIEF: Texas oil and gas companies have contributed $27.3 million toward Hurricane Harvey relief efforts, according to the Texas Oil and Gas Association. Contributions include: $1 million from Anadarko; $1 million from Chevron; $5 million from ConocoPhillips; up to $10.3 million from Exxon Mobil; $1 million from Koch; $1 million from Shell and $1 million from Valero. The funding will go to various charities and other relief organizations.

HOEVEN PRAISES TRUMP'S REFINERY SPEECH: Count Sen. John Hoeven among the fans of Trump's Wednesday speech at a North Dakota refinery. "I thought it was a good message and it's helpful for what we're trying to do," Hoeven told ME, adding he wasn't disappointed by the lack of energy-specific chatter. But the North Dakota Republican didn't take ME's bait on how he felt about Trump calling his Democratic colleague Heidi Heitkamp a "good woman" during the speech.

SENATE SAVES SOME CLIMATE FUNDING: The Senate Appropriations Committee added $10 million for the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and U.N. Framework Convention on Climate Change after Republican Sens. Lamar Alexander and Susan Collins bucked their party to support an amendment to the panel's State and Foreign Operations bill Thursday. But the committee did not restore any funds to the Green Climate Fund, which aims to help developing countries adapt to the effects of climate change.

CLEAN POWER PLAN REPEAL EXPECTED THIS FALL: Pruitt expects to sign a proposed repeal of the Obama administration's Clean Power Plan "in the fall of 2017," Pro's Alex Guillén reports, citing a new court filing. The agency offered no additional details on its repeal

effort, which has been under review by OMB since June 8.

WYOMING TRESPASS LAW VIOLATED FIRST AMENDMENT, COURT RULES: Collecting environmental information on public lands is a protected form of First Amendment speech, the 10th Circuit Court of Appeals ruled Thursday. A three-judge panel struck down a Wyoming law setting strong punishments for anyone who crossed private lands in order to get to public lands to collect information, which includes taking water or soil samples, making observational notes or snapping photos. "Although trespassing does not enjoy First Amendment protection, the statutes at issue target the 'creation' of speech by imposing heightened penalties on those who collect resource data," the court ruled. Trespassers on private land can still be prosecuted under the state's weaker general trespassing law, but a special law targeting trespassers who gather environmental information is unconstitutional, the court noted.

STICKING AROUND: Legal challenges to the delay of an Obama-era BLM methane rule will stay in California rather than moving to Wyoming, as Interior requested, Pro's Alex Guillén reports. Litigation over the original underlying regulation, known as the venting and flaring rule, are still playing out in Wyoming but Magistrate Judge Elizabeth Laporte of the U.S. District Court for Northern California said the two issues are rather different and likely would not be combined anyway.

Speaking of methane, eight Senate Democrats led by Sheldon Whitehouse sent a letter to Pruitt asking for information on his reported plans to enforce EPA's separate methane emissions standards for new oil and gas wells on a "case by case" basis.

INDUSTRY PONDERING BREAKING 15B GALLON ETHANOL BARRIER: Pruitt has set off an ethanol industry debate about lifting the volume requirement beyond the 15 billion gallon conventional biofuel limit established under the Renewable Fuel Standard. "We're all just starting to talk about it as a broad industry," Growth Energy's Emily Skor tell ME. "You've got the head of the EPA saying well you could consider a reset beyond 15 billion gallons." Pruitt told Radio Iowa last month that he would consider going beyond the limit set by Congress if biofuel volumes are reset in two years' time. Skor said it was the second time the administrator made a such a remark. "The first time you don't know, did he mean to say that?" she said. "The second time well, he did mean to say that."

It's all about demand: EPA told ME in a statement, "Administrator Pruitt believes that RFS volume obligations should be reflective of actual demand. As Administrator Pruitt told Radio Iowa, if demand exceeds current statutory limits, then the reset volumes will be reflective of that fact. However, much work remains to be done before we can come to this type of conclusion."

ETHANOL WANTS FEDS TO RESPOND TO BRAZIL ETHANOL DUTIES : Growth Energy, the Renewable Fuels Association and the U.S. Grains Council are collaborating on letters to U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer and Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue asking them to respond to ethanol quotas imposed by Brazil last month. The groups have not released the letters to the media, but Skor told ME, "What we're saying to the government is, here's the impact and we need your help." Brazil set a 20 percent tariff on ethanol imported beyond 600 billion liters (158 million gallons), and the groups would like to see the tariff

removed or the quota raised. The U.S. exported 277 million gallons of ethanol to Brazil in 2016, a sharp rise from the previous year, according to EIA. Skor said they make no specific ask of the administration, saying, "We don't want to be prescriptive right now with the U.S. government."

REPORT ROUNDUP! CLEAN ENERGY BOOMING OUT WEST: The Clean Energy Trust and Environmental Entrepreneurs released an analysis Thursday finding nearly 600,000 people are employed in clean energy jobs throughout the Midwest, up five percent since 2015 alone. That's more than double the number of computer programmers in the region, according to the groups.

FIXING INFRASTRUCTURE YIELDS BIG ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS: Investing in significant infrastructure improvements over the next decade could fuel huge environmental benefits, according a report from the BlueGreen Alliance. Among them: 4.4 billion gallons of saved fuel; reducing leaked drinking water by 6 billion gallons and reducing overall carbon dioxide emissions by 12 percent. More here.

INTERIOR RELEASES RECREATION SURVEY: The Interior Department released a preliminary report Thursday that shows 40 percent of the U.S. population ages 16 and older partook in at least one wildlife recreation activity last year. While there were more wildlife watchers and anglers than in the last survey the Census Bureau conducted for the agency in 2011, hunting was down by 16 percent. The data from these reports is often used by agencies and companies to gauge business opportunities and for wildlife management decisions. Interior's Fish and Wildlife Service expects to issue the full data in early 2018.

DAINES PUSHES WILDFIRE REFORMS: Montana Republican Sen. Steve Daines urged new U.S. Forest Service Chief Tony Tooke to pursue immediate wildfire policy reforms as his state deals with ongoing devastating fires. "Fire season always reminds us that either we manage our forests, or our forests manage us," he wrote in a Thursday letter. "We need to focus our time and energy on pursuing reforms that better equip the U.S. Forest Service with the tools and resources needed to accomplish its goals."

GOT YOUR BACK! Kansas Sen. Pat Roberts ran interference to save Senate Energy Chairman Lisa Murkowski from a pack of energy reporters. Asked by the self-proclaimed newest Dodge City Globe reporter what she'd done for Kansas, the affable Alaskan replied: "I grew a sunflower this summer."

QUICK HITS

- Texas Chemical Plant Sued For Millions, First Responders Charge Gross Negligence. International Business Times.

- Climate Change Speeds Beach Erosion With Huge Storms. Bloomberg.

- As Hurricane Irma approaches, BP evacuates Gulf platform and drilling rig. Houston Chronicle.

- Florida cites complaints over Chevron gas prices as shortages mount. Reuters.

- Shailene Woodley says she was strip searched after Dakota pipeline arrest. ABC News.

- Former Wagoner County sheriff receives deferred sentence on reduced charge related to cash seizure during 2014 traffic stop. Tulsa World.

- Record-setting smoke haunts Seeley Lake. Missoulian.

THAT'S ALL FOR ME!

** **A message from Chevron:** This is a story about DOERS, butterflies, and buckwheat. In '75, the endangered El Segundo Blue butterfly was found near a Chevron refinery. We protected the habitat and planted the only thing they eat-buckwheat. We're still planting and keeping an eye on our littlest neighbor. Watch the video: http://politi.co/2xaoDCa **

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EHS Federal Regulatory Alert

June 13, 2017 - Number 112

You can create a report customized by topic, jurisdiction, and date range by using the Regulatory Summaries Report Tool. The report can be generated in Excel, Word, or PDF.

Summaries

AIR
Alaska SIP/Minor Source Permitting, Transportation Conformity
AIR

Proposed rule of the EPA amends regulations under 40 CFR 52 to approve revisions to the Alaska SIP. The revisions update the version of incorporated federal regulations, update minor source permitting requirements, and remove obsolete source-specific requirements. The revisions also update certain general conformity provisions and transportation conformity provisions concerning interagency consultation and public involvement. Comments are due July 13, 2017. Contact: Randall Ruddick; EPA Region 10, Office of Air and Waste; 206-553-1999; ruddick.randall@epa.gov

82 FR 27031 (06/13/2017)

Regulatory Update

AIR
Alaska/Clean Air Act Consent Decree
AIR

Notice of the Department of Justice announces the extension of the comment period for a consent decree (82 FR 18928; 04/24/2017) in United States v. Westward Seafoods Inc. (Civil Action No. 3:17-cv-00087-TMB), lodged April 17, 2017, with the U.S. District Court for the District of Alaska. The consent decree resolves claims regarding alleged Clean Air Act violations at Westward's seafood processing facility in Dutch Harbor, Alaska, and claims for stipulated penalties for violations of a 2010 consent decree (75 FR 21349). The consent decree requires the defendant to pay $1.3 million in penalties and to perform injunctive relief concerning improved operation and maintenance procedures and employee training. The consent decree also subjects the defendant to third-party verification of compliance with the decree and the Clean Air Act permit and requires the defendant to implement two mitigation projects. Comments now are due July 3, 2017. Contact: DOJ, Environment and Natural Resources Division; 202-514-2701

82 FR 27079 (06/13/2017)

Regulatory Update

AIR
Clean Air Act Settlement Agreement
AIR

Notice of the EPA announces the reopening of the comment period for a proposed settlement agreement (82 FR 6532; 01/19/2017) in Sierra Club v. EPA (Civil Action No. 16-1158) lodged with the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia. The agreement resolves a petition for judicial review of a March 28, 2016, EPA final rule (81 FR 17248) regarding revisions to ambient monitoring quality assurance. The agreement requires the EPA to issue two nonbinding guidance documents regarding recommendations for public inspection of proposed monitoring plans and recommendations for stakeholder notification of submitted monitoring plan approvals and disapprovals. The agreement also requires the U.S. to pay Sierra Club's claim for fees and costs. Comments now are due July 13, 2017. Contact: Jonathan Skinner-Thompson; EPA, Office of General Counsel; 202-564-0291; skinner-thompson.jonathan@epa.gov

82 FR 27063 (06/13/2017)

Regulatory Update

ENDANGERED SPECIES
New Mexico, Texas/Plant Designations
ENDANGERED SPECIES

Notice of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announces the reopening of the comment period for five proposed rules to reclassify four plants and to designate critical habitat under 50 CFR 17.12. The notice addresses a rule to list the Guadalupe fescue, a plant species from the Chihuahuan Desert of west Texas and Mexico as endangered (82 FR 62450; 09/09/2016) and to designate critical habitat for the plant in Big Bend National Park, in Brewster County, Texas (81 FR 62455; 09/09/2016). The notice also addresses a rule to reclassify the Tobusch fishhook cactus, found in Texas, from endangered to threatened (81 FR 95932; 12/29/2016). In addition, the notice addresses a rule to reclassify the Kuenzler hedgehog cactus, found in New Mexico, from endangered to threatened (82 FR 1677; 01/06/2017). Finally, the notice addresses a rule to remove the gypsum wild-buckwheat, found in New Mexico, from the list of endangered and threatened plants due to recovery (82 FR 1657; 01/06/2017). Comments now are due July 13, 2017. Contact: Adam Zerrenner; USFWS, Austin Ecological Services Field Office; 512-490-0057

82 FR 27033 (06/13/2017)

Regulatory Update

GENERAL ENVIRONMENT AND SAFETY
CPSC Priorities for 2018-2019
GENERAL ENVIRONMENT AND SAFETY

Notice of the Consumer Product Safety Commission announces a hearing regarding the agency's agenda and priorities for fiscal years 2018 and 2019. The hearing is scheduled for July 26, 2017, in Bethesda, Md. Comments are due July 12, 2017. Contact: Todd Stevenson; CPSC, Office of the

Secretary; 301-504-7923; cpsc-os@cpsc.gov

82 FR 27045 (06/13/2017)

Regulatory Update

GENERAL ENVIRONMENT AND SAFETY
California/Feather River Hydroelectric Project
GENERAL ENVIRONMENT AND SAFETY

Notice of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission announces the filing of an application by the California Department of Water Resources for a noncapacity amendment of license regarding the Feather River Hydroelectric Project, on the Feather River in Butte County, Calif. The applicant requests approval to restore project function following extensive erosion to the service and emergency spillways at the Oroville Dam during February 2017 flood events. The applicant proposes to permanently relocate approximately two miles of the 230-kilovolt transmission lines onto lands across the Feather River from the damaged spillways outside the current project boundary to avoid future damage to the transmission lines, facilitate reconstruction of the spillways, and restore a reliable route for electricity to and from the dam's power plant. Comments are due June 22, 2017. Contact: John Aedo; FERC; 415-369-3335; john.aedo@ferc.gov

82 FR 27059 (06/13/2017)

Regulatory Update

GENERAL ENVIRONMENT AND SAFETY
Florida/Wekiva Parkway Relocation Project
GENERAL ENVIRONMENT AND SAFETY

Notice of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission announces the availability of the schedule of environmental review for the Wekiva Parkway Relocation Project in Lake and Seminole counties in Florida. The project, proposed by Florida Gas Transmission Co., of Houston, includes the abandonment, relocation, and replacement of portions of the Sanford lateral pipe and Sanford lateral loop pipeline by installing replacement lines adjacent to each other in a new right of way. The project would resolve conflicts between the existing pipelines and construction of the Florida Department of Transportation's new State Road 429. The issuance of the environmental assessment is scheduled for July 28, 2017, and the 90-day federal authorization decision is due Oct. 26, 2017. Contact: FERC, Office of External Affairs; 866-208-3676; FERCOnlinesupport@ferc.gov

82 FR 27060 (06/13/2017)

Regulatory Update

GENERAL ENVIRONMENT AND SAFETY
Ohio/Lead Cascade Facility
GENERAL ENVIRONMENT AND SAFETY

Notice of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission announces the availability of an environmental assessment and finding of no significant impact regarding a request from American Centrifuge Operating LLC, of Bethesda, Md., for the Lead Cascade Facility (LCF), in Piketon, Ohio, under

NRC License SNM-7003. The request is for authorization to ship solid radioactive waste, liquid radioactive waste, and solid low level mixed waste from the LCF to the Nevada National Security Site where it will be permanently buried. Contact: Jean Trefethen; NRC, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards; 301-415-0867; Jean.Trefethen@nrc.gov

82 FR 27088 (06/13/2017)

Regulatory Update

GENERAL ENVIRONMENT AND SAFETY
Recall Effectiveness Workshop
GENERAL ENVIRONMENT AND SAFETY

Notice of the Consumer Product Safety Commission announces a workshop on potential ways to improve the effectiveness of consumer product recalls from the public announcement to product correction stage. The workshop will address topics such as hazard communication, consumer motivation, in-store notification, use of social media, and other forms of notice. Comments are requested on additional discussion topics. The workshop is scheduled for July 25, 2017, in Bethesda, Md. Topic suggestions are due June 23, 2017. Contact: Joseph Williams; CPSC; Office of Compliance and Field Operations; 301-504-7585; jfwilliams@cpsc.gov

82 FR 27046 (06/13/2017)

Regulatory Update

PESTICIDES
Pesticide Tolerance Exemption/Cumene Sulfonic Acid
PESTICIDES

Final rule of the EPA amends regulations under 40 CFR 180.920 and 180.930 to establish an exemption from the requirement of a tolerance for residues of cumene sulfonic acid and its ammonium, calcium, magnesium, potassium, sodium, and zinc salts when used as an inert ingredient in pesticide formulations applied to growing crops and to animals. The rule eliminates the need to establish a maximum permissible level for the residues when used in accordance with approved conditions. The rule is issued in response to a petition filed by Huntsman Petrochemical LLC, of the Woodlands, Texas. The rule is effective June 13, 2017. Objections and hearing requests are due Aug. 14, 2017. Contact: Michael Goodis; EPA, Office of Pesticide Programs; 703-305-7090; RDFRNotices@epa.gov

82 FR 27021 (06/13/2017)

Regulatory Update

TOXIC SUBSTANCES
Draft Toxicological Profiles
TOXIC SUBSTANCES

Notice of the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry announces the availability of four draft toxicological profiles of priority hazardous substances. The profiles contain information on hazardous substances commonly found at facilities on the National Priorities List and that pose a significant potential threat to human health. The notice addresses updated

profiles for antimony; 2, 4-D; molybdenum; and silica. The agency requests additional information or reports on studies about the health effects of the substances for review and potential inclusion in the profile. Comments are due Sept. 11, 2017. Contact: Jessilynn Taylor; ATSDR, Division of Toxicology and Human Health Sciences; 770-488-3313; jxt1@cdc.gov

82 FR 27066 (06/13/2017)

Regulatory Update

WATER
Delaware River Basin Commission/Fees, Water Charges
WATER

Final rule of the Delaware River Basin Commission amends regulations under 18 CFR 401.43 and 420.41 to revise the regulatory program fees and schedule of water charges for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2017, to reflect an increase in the consumer price index (CPI). The rule also corrects references to a CPI data series. The rule is effective July 1, 2017. Contact: Elba Deck; Delaware River Basin Commission; 609-883-9500

82 FR 26989 (06/13/2017)

Regulatory Update

WATER
Payments for Benefits from Headwater Improvements
WATER

Notice of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission announces the withdrawal of a June 7, 2017, notice (82 FR 26476) announcing the submission of a continuing information collection request to the OMB regarding payment for benefits from headwater improvements, which provide additional energy production from the regulation of river flows by an upstream storage reservoir (FERC-521; 18 CFR 11, Subpart B). The collection addresses data reporting requirements for downstream federal and nonfederal hydropower project owners. The data also is used to determine annual charges for nonfederal hydropower projects. Contact: Ellen Brown; FERC; 202-502-8663; DataClearance@FERC.gov

82 FR 27055 (06/13/2017)

Regulatory Update

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EHS Federal Regulatory Alert

To: Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
From: Bloomberg BNA
Sent: Wed 7/12/2017 8:07:56 PM
Subject: July 12 -- Energy and Climate Report - Afternoon Briefing

Energy and Climate Report

Afternoon Briefing - Your Preview of Today's News

The following news provides a snapshot of what Bloomberg BNA is working on today. Read the full version of all the stories in the final issue, published each night.

Ozone Standards Delay Illegal, Advocates Argue in New Lawsuit

Posted July 12, 2017, 03:53 P.M. ET

By Andrew Childers

Postponing the EPA's new ozone pollution limits for a year is illegal, a dozen environmental and public health groups said in a lawsuit filed today.

The Environmental Protection Agency announced in June its plans to delay decisions on which regions of the country fail to meet the national ozone standards, set at 70 parts per billion in 2015. Areas that exceed the standards could be required to impose a variety of pollution control requirements, including potential restrictions on vehicles and industrial facilities, to come back into compliance. It might also slow the ability of companies to secure permits to open or expand industrial facilities in certain regions.

The EPA had said that it lacks the data necessary to make the determinations. The Clean Air Act allows that sort of delay, but the environmental and health groups have said that provision only applies to individual areas and cannot be extended nationwide.

The advocacy organizations that filed the lawsuit include the American Lung Association and the Sierra Club. The Sierra Club has received funding from Bloomberg Philanthropies, the charitable organization founded by Michael Bloomberg, founder of Bloomberg L.P. Bloomberg BNA is an affiliate of Bloomberg L.P.

Senate Panel Votes to Reauthorize Diesel Grant Program

Posted July 12, 2017, 11:32 A.M. ET

By Catherine Douglas Moran

The Senate Environment and Public Works Committee approved bipartisan legislation to reauthorize a popular federal clean air program that targets emissions from older diesel engines.

The committee July 12 voted to favorably report to the Senate a bill (S. 1447) to reauthorize the Diesel Emissions Reduction Act, commonly known as the DERA program, through fiscal year 2022 at its current funding level of $50 million.

The program provides grants and rebates to states and localities to switch away from diesel engines and upgrade or replace older diesel engine vehicles such as heavy-duty trucks, school buses and equipment at ports and airports.

"It's a very important federal program to incentivize the latest clean technology to generate emission reduction across the country," Ezra Finkin, policy director for Diesel Technology Forum, told Bloomberg BNA. That organization represents companies that manufacture diesel vehicles and equipment, including Ford Motor Co., Caterpillar Inc., and Deere & Co.

The Senate Environment and Public Works Committee ranking member, Sen. Tom Carper (D-Del.), introduced the bill with the support of Sen. James Inhofe (R-Okla.), Sen. John Barrasso (R-Wyo.), and Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse (D-R.I.).

Carper said at the hearing that he is one of the strongest supporters of the program, which he called "one of the most effective EPA programs, resulting in enormous environmental and public health benefits, while creating jobs here at home."

Congress provided almost $670 million to the program between fiscal year 2008 and FY 2016, including $300 million from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, a one-time stimulus package. The EPA has awarded 690 grants since the program started in 2008, according to an April agency press release announcing plans to fund at least $11 million in additional programs.

The Obama administration repeatedly proposed cuts to the DERA program in annual budget requests, a trend that continued in President Donald Trump's first budget proposal. The White House proposed to fund DERA at $10 million for fiscal year 2018, down from the current $50 million.

House Energy Funding Bill Advances With Renewables Cuts Intact

Posted July 12, 2017, 03:01 P.M. ET

By Rebecca Kern

The House Appropriations Committee approved a $37.56 billion energy and water appropriations bill to fund the Energy Department, Army Corps of Engineers, and other related independent agencies, including the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

The bill, approved by voice vote July 12, would cut funding for those agencies by $203 million in fiscal year 2018 compared to current funding. The funding level sought by House appropriators is still $3.25 billion above what President Donald Trump sought in his first budget request.

The Energy Department would receive $29.9 billion under the House bill, which is $857.6 million below the fiscal 2017 enacted level, and $2 billion above Trump's request. That includes a nearly $1 billion cut to DOE's Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, which invests in energy efficiency research and reducing the cost of wind, solar, and other renewable technologies.

The bill would eliminate funding for the Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy (ARPA-E), which provides early stage investment in innovative energy technologies. It was proposed to be eliminated in Trump's budget, which requested just $20 million to wind down remaining projects, compared to $306 million provided in the fiscal 2017 omnibus bill.

Rep. Mike Simpson (R-Idaho), chairman of the committee's Energy and Water Subcommittee, said that while he supports ARPA-E, he noted that the bill is the start of the appropriations process and that funding may be returned.

"The department should not take action to shut down ARPA-E unless Congress directs them to do so by law," Simpson said at the markup. "I like ARPA-E, but our nation's defense and infrastructure are the top priorities and tough choices had to be made. I generally support ARPA-E, and I would like to see this continue."

Two Democratic amendments were offered and failed during the markup. One amendment proposed removing language that would allow the EPA to speed up the rollback of the Obama-era Clean Water Rule, and another recommended returning funding to the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy.

Nuclear Regulatory Commission Nominees Clear Senate Panel

Posted July 12, 2017, 10:17 A.M. ET

By Rebecca Kern

Two nominees for the Nuclear Regulatory Commission cleared the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee June 29.

Annie Caputo and David Wright, the two Republican nominees, advanced to the full Senate for a confirmation vote. Caputo's nomination was approved 15-6, while Wright cleared the committee on a 11-10 vote. Caputo is a longtime energy policy adviser for the committee, and Wright is a former chairman of the South Carolina Public Service Commission. In June, the Senate confirmed current NRC Chairman Kristine Svincki for a third five-year term.

Caputo has more than a decade of experience working as a staffer on both Senate and House energy committees. She has worked as a policy adviser on the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee since January 2015 and was a staffer from 2007 to 2012, specializing in nuclear energy issues. From 2012 to 2015, she worked as a staffer on the House Energy and Commerce Committee.

A former congressional affairs manager at Exelon Corp., Caputo has a chemical engineering degree from Michigan Technological University and a degree in nuclear engineering from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Wright has been the owner of Wright Directions LLC, a strategic consulting and communications business based in South Carolina, since 2013. He served on the South Carolina Public Service Commission from 2004 to 2013.

From 2011–2012, he was president of National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners, which represents state public service commissioners. He also was national chairman of the Nuclear Waste Strategy Coalition from 2006 to 2013, a group of state utility regulators, local governments, and tribes on nuclear waste policy issues. He has a political science degree from Clemson University.

The NRC licenses and regulates the country's nuclear reactors. Its five commissioners serve

staggered five-year terms, with three seats belonging to the political party in power in the White House. It currently has three commissioners: Svinicki; Stephen Burns (I), the previous chairman in the Obama administration; and Jeff Baran (D).

—With assistance from Catherine Douglas Moran

Bill to Boost Carbon Capture Tax Credit Resurfaces in Senate

Posted July 12, 2017, 03:24 P.M. ET

By Brian Dabbs

A bipartisan bill to extend a carbon capture and sequestration tax credit resurfaced in the Senate July 12.

The legislation would boost credits for carbon sequestered tonnage and allow power plants to claim the credit for 12 years following installation of the equipment.

Sen. Heidi Heitkamp (D-N.D.), the lead sponsor, touted the bill as a potential boon to the coal industry.

"The bill recognizes that coal—which provides one-third of electricity in the U.S.—will continue to be part of the nation's and world's energy mix for the foreseeable future, which can be done while making the resource cleaner," she said in a statement.

Sen. John Barrasso (R-Wyo.) and Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse (D-R.I.), unlikely allies on environmental policy, also sponsored the legislation.

Markup on Ethanol Boost Likely Before August Recess

Posted July 12, 2017, 02:58 P.M. ET

By Brian Dabbs

A committee vote on legislation to boost ethanol sales is likely to take place before the August recess, a spokeswoman for Sen. Chuck Grassley (R-Iowa), the chief ethanol proponent in the Senate, told Bloomberg BNA.

The announcement July 11 of an extended work period before the break opens the door to unforeseen legislative developments, and ethanol backers on Capitol Hill are pushing to gain support for the bill.

The legislation (S. 517), which would allow sales of transportation fuel containing 15 percent ethanol (E15) in the summer months, could provide a windfall for POET LLC, Archer Daniels Midland Co. and other ethanol producers.

Still, Sen. John Barrasso (R-Wy.), chairman of the Environment and Public Works Committee, said a markup will be held but stopped short of confirming a time frame.

"I don't know about the timing on it, but I promised them one, and there will be one," Barrasso, who opposes the bill, told Bloomberg BNA July 12. "We just found out yesterday

that we're going to be here an additional two weeks, so we're trying to figure out hearings, markups, how we want to spend our time."

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) now vows to hold the Senate in session through the week of Aug. 7, a two-week cut to the previously planned schedule.

Barrasso and Senate leadership promised ethanol supporters a vote on the E15 bill in exchange for "yes" votes on a measure to roll back an Interior Department regulation on methane venting and flaring. That rollback attempt—a use of the Congressional Review Act—ultimately failed in May after unexpected opposition from Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.).

Committee Support Unclear

While the bill may be poised for a markup, committee support is still unclear. "We are working to get the votes in committee," the spokeswoman for Grassley, who doesn't sit on the committee, said.

Sen. Deb Fischer (R-Neb.), the bill sponsor and a committee member, is reaching out to Sen. Tom Carper (D-Del.), to court his support, she told Bloomberg BNA. Several Republicans, including Barrasso, Sen. James Inhofe (Okla.), and Sen. John Boozman (Ark.), oppose the bill.

Ethanol backer Sen. Joni Ernst (R-Iowa) said she is "cautiously optimistic" about the prospects of the markup. Fischer declined to comment.

Australia Drive for Stricter Fuel Efficiency Angers Automakers

Posted July 12, 2017, 10:00 A.M. ET

By Murray Griffin

The Australian government is considering a fuel efficiency standard for new light vehicles that has angered the association representing companies including Toyota, Volkswagen and Ford, but pleased climate advocacy groups.

The Liberal-National Party Coalition government led by Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull has proposed, in a paper sent July 10 by the federal Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development to key interest groups, a new light vehicle fleet average of 105 grams of carbon dioxide per kilometer, which would be fully phased in by 2025. The department has not yet posted the paper on its website nor has it confirmed it will implement the proposal.

Australia is currently one of the few developed countries that lacks light vehicle efficiency standards. Under the proposal, companies would report sales and efficiency levels starting in 2020. In 2022, 65 percent of vehicle sales would have to comply with the standard, rising to 100 percent by 2025.

To provide some flexibility, the companies would be allowed to average fleet emissions over three years. Compliance would be determined by giving companies a credit for each vehicle that is at or under the standard, and issuing a debit for each one that is above it. Companies would be in compliance if they had at least as many credits as debits at the end of each calendar year.

Credits for Ultra-Low Emission Vehicles

To encourage ultra-low emission vehicles such as electric cars, extra credits would accrue.

For example, a vehicle producing zero carbon per kilometer would accrue three credits, while the sale of a car producing between one and 30 grams per kilometer would earn two credits.

The standard would adopt the new Worldwide Harmonized Light Vehicles Test Procedure—which is expected to be adopted by the end of 2019—as the basis for measuring vehicle efficiency.

The Australian Chamber of Automotive Industries—which represents car makers including the Australian operations of BMW, Ford, Honda, Hyundai, Mercedes-Benz, Toyota and Volkswagen—criticized the proposal.

"We are hugely disappointed," Tony McDonald, the chamber's acting chief executive, told Bloomberg BNA July 12 by phone. McDonald said the government shouldn't specify a carbon standard until it has strengthened fuel quality standards, adding that the government should also take into account "Australian consumers' predisposition to purchase heavier vehicles."

These matters influence "what you can do to achieve a CO2 outcome," he said.

The chamber is advocating options for the efficiency standard that would result in the new vehicle fleet still being above 105 grams carbon dioxide per kilometer in 2030.

However, think-tank ClimateWorks Australia welcomed the proposal. ClimateWorks implementation manager Scott Ferraro July 12 told Bloomberg BNA by phone the proposal followed extensive consultation.

Ferraro said a draft regulatory impact statement issued last December by the government had considered several possible standards and found that the 105 grams option would deliver net benefits of A$13.9 billion ($10.63 billion) by 2040, due mainly to fuel savings. He also disputed that the standard could only be implemented in conjunction with improved fuel quality standards.

This argument had been debunked by the International Council on Clean Transportation in its submission to the federal government's consultation process on the proposed standard, he said.

The council's comments said that Australia could meet the 105 grams standard "based on the current fuel quality we've got," Ferraro said.

According to the council's submission, the present fuel quality in Australia "is not a hindrance to lowering CO2 emissions from new light vehicles."

"While gasoline sulfur content in Australia should be brought down to 10 parts per million over time in view of reducing noxious emissions, lack of availability of ultra-low sulfur or extra high-octane gasoline should not become an excuse for delaying action on light vehicle CO2 standards," the council said.

Billion-Barrel Mexican Find Could Spur Rush on Next Oil Auctions

Posted July 12, 2017, 03:49 P.M. ET

***By** Adam Williams, Amy Stillman **and** Giacomo Tognini*

A billion-barrel crude discovery in Mexico could be just the lure the country badly needs to

boost investment from oil majors as it lacks the wherewithal to reverse years of sagging output.

At a time when global oil prices were cratering—and drillers were nervously cutting exploration funds—Mexico's earliest auctions drew spotty interest. Since then, however, European drillers led by Italy's Eni SpA have increasingly become involved. The find in Mexico's shallow waters could drive added interest—and higher bids—in future auctions as the government seeks to boost production that's fallen by a third in the past decade.

On July 12, Premier Oil Plc, Sierra Oil & Gas and Talos Energy LLC announced the first Mexican find by explorers other than state-owned Pemex in 80 years, a reservoir with an estimated 1.4 billion to 2 billion barrels. With new auctions set for the end of the year, the discovery promises to rev up interest in Mexico's energy riches moving forward, said Pablo Medina, an analyst at the consulting firm Wood Mackenzie Ltd.

"Future bids will likely be more aggressive," Medina said in a telephone interview. "This obviously increases the attention people will pay. The area contiguous to this block is going to go up in value, no question."

About a fifth of Mexico's public budget relies on oil revenue, with production near the lowest level in more than 30 years. That drop in production, combined with lower oil prices, forced the government to cut spending, causing growth in the $1.1 trillion economy to decelerate to the slowest pace since 2013.

Mexico's Gain

The Mexican government will receive a 68.99 percent profit share from every barrel produced in the block, and as much as 80 percent when considering taxes and fees over the life of the project, Sierra said in a statement. "It is of great importance for Mexico," Mexico Oil Commissioner Juan Carlos Zepeda wrote in an emailed statement.

President Enrique Pena Nieto embarked on an ambitious reform of the energy sector in 2013, aiming to revive flagging output at a time when oil prices were in the triple digits. The reforms, which didn't kick in until after oil prices had fallen, involved amending the constitution to allow foreign investors into the country's oil industry for the first time since it was nationalized in 1938.

The first auctions came in 2015, with outside investors invited to bid on fields that were previously only accessible to Pemex. Eni SpA was one of the first oil majors to win a bid in Mexico and has stood out in the race by winning four contracts.

Since then, some of the world's largest oil companies, including Exxon Mobil Corp., Chevron Corp., and BP Plc, signed contracts in the country. European majors Repsol SA, Royal Dutch Shell Plc, and Total SA also won leases earlier this year in shallow-water fields.

Less Risk

The find has "de-risked a little bit some of these shallow water opportunities" in Mexico, said Jeremy Martin, director of the energy program at the Institute of the Americas, speaking over the phone from La Jolla, California. "There are a host of companies on the U.S. side of the Gulf that may now consider participating in upcoming auctions because this is a way of showing them that the process works, and can lead to a discovery."

The next auctions, in deep water and for shale blocks, will likely come at the end of this year

or the start of 2018.

The shallow field holding the billion-dollar find is located 37 miles (60 kilometers) offshore from the Mexican port of Dos Bocas in 546 feet (166 meters) of water and contains light oil, Premier Oil said in a statement. The discovery comes just two years after the three explorers jointly won the exploration license.

In a July 12 interview, Premier CEO Tony Durrant listed the potential of the site at 1 billion to 1.5 billion barrels. Sierra said the primary target reservoir contains 1.4 billion to 2 billion barrels, and could extend into a neighboring block.

Mexico "took a really difficult decision for them politically after 40 years of 100 percent Pemex-ownership," Durrant said. The opening up of the country's industry "caught them at absolutely the worst time because of the collapse in oil prices. But to be fair to them, they persevered and they have now got very strong industry interest."

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Energy and Climate Report

To: Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
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Subject: June 28 -- Daily Environment Report

Daily Environment Report

June 28, 2017 - Number 123

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Leading the News

Pesticides

Monsanto's Foes Are Branching Out

Call it the anti-Roundup dream team. A coalition of attorneys, invigorated by their lawsuit representing cancer victims against Monsanto Co., is tackling the world's most popular weedkiller on multiple fronts. They are veteran environmental attorney and political scion Robert F. Kennedy, Jr.; Aimee Wagstaff of Andrus Wagstaff LP in Lakewood, Colo.; Michael Miller of the Miller Firm LLC in Orange, Va.; Michael Baum and Brent Wisner of Baum Hedlund Aristei Goldman PC in Los Angeles; and ...

Water Infrastructure

California Mounts Lobbying Blitz for EPA Water Loans

The Golden State is making a strong lobbying push to try to win new federal loans for water infrastructure projects, according to data and documents reviewed by Bloomberg BNA.

Water Pollution

EPA Starts Water Rule Repeal, Fulfills Trump Campaign Pledge

EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt June 27 initiated the repeal of an Obama-era water jurisdiction regulation by issuing a proposal that would reinstate prior policies on what waters are subject to federal protections, the agency announced.

News

Air Pollution

EPA Nitrogen Dioxide Air Standards Up For White House Review

The EPA's review of its nitrogen dioxide air pollution standards is nearly complete with the agency sending its proposal for how to proceed to the White House Office of Management

and Budget.

Budget
House Appropriators Move to Eliminate Funding for ARPA-E
The Energy Department's Advanced Research Projects Agency—Energy (ARPA-E) would have its funding eliminated in spending legislation released June 27 by Republicans on the House Appropriations committee.

Chemicals
Chemical Makers Can Ask, Pay for Part of EPA Risk Analysis
Chemical manufacturers can request and foot the bill for the EPA to review the risks of some chemical uses without triggering an obligation to cover the cost of a more comprehensive examination, a senior agency official said.

Climate Policy
Germany Prepares Fund to Encourage Pension-Pot Climate Spending
Germany's environment ministry is to start its first fund aimed at reducing the risk of financing clean-energy projects in emerging nations.

Coal Mining
$1 Billion Mine Cleanup Bill Moves to Full House
A bill that would speed the delivery of $1 billion to states grappling with old, unreclaimed mine sites passed a House committee June 27.

Coal-Fired Power Plants
Navajo Vote to Extend Large Coal-Fired Power Plant's Lease
The massive coal-fired Navajo Generating Station can continue to operate through 2019 after the Navajo Nation Council approved legislation allowing it more time to shut down.

Congress
EPA Prying Into Witness Testimony Merits Probe: Democrats
House Science Committee Democrats are calling for an investigation into potential inappropriate interference from EPA into an agency science adviser's testimony before Congress.

Drinking Water
New Lead Rule a Heavy Lift for EPA Water Regulators
The EPA's drinking water regulators are trying to solve the difficult problem of how much lead in tap water is too much.

Energy
Energy Regulator to Retire June 30, Leaving One Commissioner
The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's Colette Honorable said her last day will be June 30, leaving the independent agency with one remaining member and four vacancies.

Energy
Energy Secretary Supports Nuclear, but Funding Cut Proposed
Energy Secretary Rick Perry called domestic nuclear energy development a "game changer" at the start of White House "Energy Week," but the department's proposed budget would cut funding for its nuclear office.

Energy
Perry Seeks Energy Pact with Mexico, Canada as NAFTA Talks Near

The U.S. has a unique opportunity to develop a "North American energy strategy" with Canada and Mexico, Energy Secretary Rick Perry said, striking a conciliatory tone with the other members of the North American Free Trade Agreement.

Energy

Perry: Renewables Affect Grid Reliability; FERC Member Refutes

Energy Secretary Rick Perry said previous policies benefiting renewable resources threaten baseload resources and lead to a less reliable electric grid, but Federal Energy Regulatory Commissioner Colette Honorable refuted his claim.

Energy

Pumped Hydropower Storage Bill Passes House

A bill designed to eliminate regulatory uncertainty in hydropower storage at federal reservoirs passed the House June 27.

Energy

Westinghouse Dealt Setback in Bid to Recover $2 Billion

Westinghouse Electric Co. was dealt a setback in its bid to recover $2 billion from Chicago Bridge & Iron Co. NV stemming from cost overruns at unfinished nuclear reactors in South Carolina and Georgia.

Hydraulic Fracturing

Interior May Restore Pre-2015 Federal Fracking Regulations

The Interior Department appears poised to rescind its 2015 rule on hydraulic fracturing outright, after which it may simply revert to the pre-existing status quo on federal regulations for fracking on federal and Indian lands.

Mississippi

Injunction Nixed for Pollution Claims Against Oil Driller

A Mississippi landowner isn't entitled to an injunction to stop alleged contamination from oil and gas production activities on his property, the Southern District of Mississippi ruled (Miller v. Miss. Res., LLC, S.D. Miss., No. 17-cv-00041, 6/26/17).

Radioactive Waste

Adviser Promoted as Acting Head of Nuclear Waste Cleanup Office

James Owendoff was named as acting head of the Energy Department's Office of Environmental Management, which is responsible for the cleanup of waste from the government's nuclear weapons program.

Shareholder Proposals

Energy Giants May Be Bowing to Investor Sway on Climate Stance

Energy companies may be more willing to give in to investor demand for disclosure on climate change after a record show of support for environmental issues this proxy season.

Tax Policy

Pass and Go: Four Non-Tax Reform Bills That Could Move This Year

Top House Republicans have vowed repeatedly to make sweeping tax reform a reality this year—but that effort won't be the only chance to see tax action.

Water Pollution

EU Asks for Input to Reduce Release of Microplastics Into Oceans

The European Commission said microplastics, or pieces of plastic less than 5 millimeters in diameter, are accumulating in oceans, where they can cause "disproportionately high"

damage because they absorb natural toxins and pile up in the food chain.

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Daily Environment Report for EPA

To: Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
From: Morning Transportation
Sent: Wed 5/31/2017 2:04:51 PM
Subject: POLITICO's Morning Transportation, presented by Delta Air Lines: Europe escapes electronics ban, for now — Order of GOP lawmakers' tasks subject to change? — FAA looks to fine United over airworthiness issue

By Brianna Gurciullo and Tanya Snyder | 05/31/2017 10:00 AM EDT

With help from Stephanie Beasley

EUROPE ESCAPES ELECTRONICS BAN - FOR NOW: After nearly three weeks of daily anticipation, DHS announced Tuesday that it wasn't planning to expand its electronics ban - at least for now. Prohibiting passengers from carrying large electronics in the cabins of flights from Europe to the United States is "still on the table," according to a DHS statement. However, European officials on a call with DHS Secretary John Kelly came away with the impression that the ban talk was settled for the time being, though that could change based on future intelligence.

Not now, not soon, maybe later: DHS would not comment on the details of the call when POLITICO first reached out Tuesday, but the agency later issued a statement saying Kelly and European officials agreed to "raise the bar for aviation security." The news will surely cause some to breathe a sigh of relief after a couple of tense weeks in U.S.-European relations, including U.S. leaks about the recent bombing in Manchester and an ongoing spat between President Donald Trump and German Chancellor Angela Merkel about the role the United States should play in Europe.

More talks to come: Dimitris Avramopoulos, European home affairs commissioner, and Violeta Bulc, transport commissioner, described Tuesday's call as "positive and constructive" in a statement. "Both sides agreed to intensify talks both at technical and political level to find common solutions to mitigate potential threats to aviation security and work together to step up security requirements," they said.

IT'S WEDNESDAY: Thanks for tuning in to POLITICO's Morning Transportation, your daily tipsheet on all things trains, planes, automobiles and ports. Lauren will co-host MT starting Thursday, so please send tips, feedback and lyrics to tsnyder@politico.com or @TSnyderDC and lgardner@politico.com or @Gardner_LM.

"Baby, I met you in downtown Chicago / But I, I had to drive away the very next day / So I flew your pretty a** to New York City / Then I, I left you in L.A."

Want to keep up with MT's song picks? Follow our Spotify playlist.

** **A message from Delta Air Lines:** Our daily briefing: At Delta we're constantly innovating to make your travel smoother. We tapped RFID technology to keep your bags in check at all times. Giving you more peace of mind from check-in to baggage claim. Learn more: delta.com/dca **

CAUGHT OFF GUARD: The GOP's legislative timelines could get a little more complicated.

The White House now wants lawmakers to increase the national debt limit before July ends, rather than in the fall, POLITICO's Burgess Everett and Rachael Bade report. What would that mean for pending transportation business? Moving up the debt ceiling debate could free up some time in the third quarter for talk about infrastructure, as the Trump administration has hoped, but it could seriously suck the air out of the room on reauthorizing the FAA.

GOOD LUCK WITH THAT: Meanwhile, Rep. Tom Graves (R-Ga.) wants to move up the process for funding the government through fiscal 2018, proposing that the House approve an omnibus before members leave town for the August recess. Pro Budget & Appropriations Brief's Sarah Ferris and Jennifer Scholtes report: "Graves said his plan is to simply pass the package through the House, letting the Senate 'deal with its own political challenges' while the lower chamber moves on to tax reform and infrastructure legislation."

A PINCH OF SPICE: When asked Tuesday whether the White House thinks it can reach its goals for health care, taxes and infrastructure by the end of 2017, White House press secretary Sean Spicer said that Trump's "legislative agenda is in full swing," and reiterated that infrastructure is a "priority."

UP IN THE AIR: The FAA wants to slap United Airlines with a $435,000 fine for allegedly using a plane that wasn't considered airworthy for nearly two dozen flights in 2014. The agency has accused United of using the plane after not checking the replacement of a fuel pump pressure switch. The airline did the mandatory inspection 19 days following the replacement - after the plane had completed 23 international and domestic flights, according to the agency. The FAA says that before two of the flights, it informed the airline that it needed to do the check. The fine is a proposal. Negotiations will now begin.

TRUCKS WITH NO DRIVERS: Driverless trucks could reduce the demand for drivers by 50 to 70 percent in the United States and Europe by 2030, according to a new report by four international transportation organizations. They suggest that countries start addressing the workforce transition issues now, regulate the speed with which countries adopt the new technology, set the rules of the road for self-driving trucks and continue testing the new technology. They predict that driverless trucks "could be a regular presence on many roads within the next ten years."

TRUMP DOUBLES DOWN ON GERMANY TOUGH TALK: Days after U.S. and European leaders were forced to do damage control from Trump's comments that Germans were "bad, very bad" for selling too many cars to the United States, insisting that his tone wasn't "aggressive," Trump renewed his crusade Tuesday. "We have a MASSIVE trade deficit with Germany, plus they pay FAR LESS than they should on NATO & military. Very bad for U.S. This will change," he tweeted early Tuesday morning. Tuesday afternoon, Spicer called Trump's relationship with Merkel "fairly unbelievable" and said the two "get along very well."

MT MAILBAG: New Jersey lawmakers sent a letter Tuesday to Transportation Secretary Elaine Chao asking DOT to push Gateway Program projects along the federal transit grant pipeline "in an expeditious manner, and avoid unnecessary delays and red tape for some of the most important infrastructure projects in the nation." Key to note: One of the two from the

Garden State's congressional delegation that didn't sign the letter was House Appropriations Chairman Rodney Frelinghuysen. (The second, as POLITICO New Jersey's Ryan Hutchins reports, is Tom MacArthur.)

TRUMP AND PISTOLE MEET: Trump was scheduled to meet Tuesday with former TSA administrator John Pistole, a contender to be FBI director. As POLITICO's Louis Nelson reports, Pistole was deputy FBI director when Robert Mueller was at the head of the agency. Pistole is now president of Anderson University. Trump was also set to meet Tuesday with former assistant attorney general Christopher Wray, who's under consideration for FBI director as well.

SHIFTING GEARS: Eric Sutton has left his job as vice president of corporate relations for Transurban to be senior vice president of public affairs at FP1 Strategies. (h/t POLITICO Playbook Power Briefing) ... Josh Mohrer, who served as general manager for Uber in New York, has gone to Tusk Ventures. The firm's founder, Bradley Tusk, is an Uber consultant and investor. (h/t POLITICO Pro New York)

THE AUTOBAHN:

- "Uber fires executive at center of driverless car legal fight." Bloomberg.

- "This lawmaker doesn't like NJ Transit's solution to Penn Station track work." NJ.com.

- "Judge dismisses most of lawsuit against Purple Line, but ridership estimates must still be redone." The Washington Post.

- "Amtrak riders to share in Penn Station's 'summer of hell.'" The New York Times.

- "Uber, but for meltdowns." New York Magazine.

- "Uber winds up harassment probe, leaving employees on edge." The Wall Street Journal.

- "BA fiasco shows air's getting thinner for legacy airlines." Bloomberg.

- "BA debacle puts spotlight on airlines' old IT systems, cuts." The Associated Press.

THE COUNTDOWN: DOT appropriations run out in 123 days. The FAA reauthorization expires in 123 days. Highway and transit policy is up for renewal in 1,219 days.

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Daily Environment Report

July 04, 2017 - Number 127

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Leading the News

Climate Science
Scientists Skeptical of Pruitt's Call for Climate Debate
Climate change scientists see little upside to engaging in EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt's interest in additional debate on the merits of their research, fearing it will only validate the agency's plans to roll back regulations.

News

Air Pollution
Court Rebukes EPA for Shelving Obama-Era Methane Regulation
A federal appeals court rebuked the EPA for unilaterally suspending Obama-era methane emissions regulations, criticizing the "flimsiness" of its arguments and bringing the regulations back into effect.

Chemical Safety Board
Shutdown Threat Risks Stalling Work, Pushing Out Staff
Companies dealing with Chemical Safety Board investigations this year face the prospect of a distracted, inefficient agency after the Trump administration proposed to shutter it in the upcoming budget cycle.

Climate Change
Louisiana Town Convulsed by Relocation as Climate Policy Shifts
There was a fight coming and everyone knew it, so the reverend asked his guests to start with a prayer.

Climate Policy

Obama in Indonesia Takes Swipe at Trump on Paris Climate Accord

Former U.S. President Barack Obama has pointed to the importance of the Paris climate accord while criticizing Donald Trump for pulling the world's biggest economy out of the pact.

Duty to Indemnify

Cooper Industries Didn't Waive Coverage for N.J. Cleanup

Cooper Industries LLC didn't waive insurance coverage for contamination migrating from its property into the Passaic River when it reached a settlement with its insurers decades ago, the Sixth Circuit ruled (Emp'rs Ins. of Wausau v. McGraw Edison Co., 2017 BL 227385, 6th Cir., No. 16-1264, unpublished 6/30/17).

Maritime Affairs

Canada Seeks to Go Beyond International Maritime Arctic Rules

Ships in Arctic waters would still be required to meet pollution-prevention rules that go beyond internationally agreed upon standards, Canada proposed.

Mining

Brazil Companies Get Extension for Mine Spill Settlement

A Brazilian judge gave Samarco Mineracao and two other companies four more months to finalize an agreement to pay for environmental damages and compensate those hurt by the 2015 rupture of a mining waste reservoir.

Shareholder Activism

Jana Partners Takes EQT Stake, Seeks to Halt Rice Deal

Sometimes-activist investor Jana Partners disclosed a 5.8 percent stake in EQT Corp. as the fund seeks to scuttle the natural gas driller's deal to buy Rice Energy Inc. for $6.7 billion.

Practitioner Insights

Practitioner Insights: Lessons After One Year of TSCA Reforms

By Gavin Thompson: It has been a tumultuous year since June 22, 2016, when President Barack Obama signed the Frank R. Lautenberg Chemical Safety for the 21st Century Act (LCSA) to amend the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA). Thus, after many years of debate and negotiations between the chemical and related industries, environmental and consumer groups, and others, TSCA reform became a reality. What have we learned in the year since then?

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Daily Environment Report for EPA

To: Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
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Daily Environment Report

June 02, 2017 - Number 105

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Leading the News

Climate Change
Global Players Vow Steady if 'Slower Transformation' on Climate
Countries and companies worldwide put on a brave face in the wake of President Donald Trump's June 1 announcement that the U.S. would withdraw from the Paris Agreement on climate change, vowing to carry on without the world's second-largest emitter of greenhouse gases.

Climate Change
Trump Announces U.S. Withdrawal From Climate Accord
President Donald Trump announced the U.S. would withdraw from the Paris climate pact and that he will seek to renegotiate the international agreement in a way that treats American workers better.

International Climate
Trump Exit Won't Bar Successor From Rejoining Climate Pact
President Donald Trump's June 1 exit from the Paris climate pact will almost surely strengthen China's hand—and to some extent Russia's—as the more than 190 nations still in the pact face years of negotiations over implementing the deal.

News

Chemicals
EPA Updated Chemical Production Data Said Useful for Companies
The EPA's production volume and other data for 8,556 chemicals are out, and an industry official says this will help companies as they prepare to meet requirements of the new chemicals law.

Climate Policy

Trump's Paris Adieu Is a Win for Coal and Oil but Not a Big One

The biggest winners in President Donald Trump's decision to walk away from the Paris climate accord are oil, coal and natural gas producers. And even they aren't popping Champagne corks.

Duty to Defend

Love Canal Pollution Insurance Claim Flushed

The Cincinnati Insurance Co. has no duty to defend a plumbing firm against claims it released sewage at a construction project near the Love Canal Superfund site, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit ruled May 31 (Cincinnati Ins. Co. v. Roy's Plumbing, Inc., 2017 BL 181355, 2d Cir., No. 16-2511, summary order 5/31/17).

EPA

Obama EPA Chief Joins Environmental Equity Firm as Adviser

Former EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy is joining an investment firm, marking a departure from three decades in the public sector.

EPA

Supervisors Targeted as EPA Buyout Process Begins

Voluntary buyout procedures are moving ahead at EPA headquarters and regional offices, the agency's acting deputy administrator told staff in a June 1 memo.

Emissions Trading

Finland Launches Subsidies for Energy-Intensive Businesses

Energy-intensive industries in Finland can apply for subsidies to compensate for higher electricity prices caused by the European Union's greenhouse gas emissions trading program under a new state aid initiative that took effect June 1.

Energy

Devon Energy Among Clients For Which Trump Aide Lobbied

The White House granted an ethics waiver to an energy staffer to work on issues such as the EPA's methane regulations, despite recently having lobbied for companies such as Devon Energy Corp. in 2017 on the rules.

Environmental Justice

EU Court Limits Environmental Liability Exemption

Companies in the European Union that cause harm to water bodies cannot rely on permits issued before the bloc's Environmental Liability Directive took effect to dodge the directive's provisions, the EU Court of Justice ruled June 1.

International Climate

PODCAST: Is This the End for the Paris Accord?

It's official: President Donald Trump will withdraw the U.S. from the Paris Agreement on climate change.

International Climate

What Did Trump Just Do? Paris Climate Withdrawal Explained

The U.S. departure from the Paris climate accord won't happen overnight, as President Donald Trump's announcement June 1 sets in motion a years-long process to withdraw from the landmark agreement—and raises a host of questions about what comes next.

International Issues

Economic Damage from Paris Exit May Emerge in Trade Wars

President Donald Trump argued that leaving the Paris climate accord would save jobs at home, but his decision may create a new threat to the U.S. economy from abroad: trade wars.

Motor Vehicles

Norway Adopting Electric Vehicles Faster Than Anywhere Else

Since the 14th century, Akershus Fortress has protected Oslo from raids by bloodthirsty Swedes. Now a Cold War bomb shelter in its basement is being repurposed to help save the Norwegian capital from more insidious foes: pollution and global warming. Starting this month, electric car owners will be able to drive down a narrow ramp between rough-hewn rock walls dripping with condensation and plug in at one of 86 charging stations—for free.

Oil & Gas

Offshore Safety Director Dives Into Regulatory Reviews

The new top regulator for offshore oil and gas safety and environmental protection is diving into reviews of Obama administration regulations to assess how justified they are.

REACH

EU Chemicals Agency Says Animals Used In 11% of REACH Data

Methods to generate chemical safety data that don't require tests on animals are widely used by companies seeking to fulfill their obligations under the European Union's REACH regulation, the European Chemicals Agency said in a report published June 1.

Renewable Energy

Italy Switches on Five New Subsidy-Free Solar Power Plants

Octopus Investments Ltd. started generating power from five subsidy-free solar plants in Italy in the latest sign that clean-energy can be profitable without government support.

Renewable Energy

Taiwan Approves Four-Year Plan to Double Wind Power

Taiwan approved a plan June 1 to double its installed wind power capacity over the next four years.

Water Pollution

EPA: No Further Hudson River PCB Dredging Required of GE

No further dredging of the upper Hudson River for PCB contamination will be required by the Environmental Protection Agency on the basis of the draft results of a five-year review conducted under a 2002 cleanup plan, agency regional officials said June 1.

Water Pollution

Water Rule Meeting Documents Sought by Advocates in Lawsuit

Environmental advocates want the EPA to release documents from meetings with states and business groups on plans to rewrite a rule defining the reach of the Clean Water Act.

Water Resources

Commercial Waterway Users Look for Federal Spending Plans

Commercial waterway users are hopeful about congressional support for water infrastructure but sound uncertain and a bit skeptical about Trump administration plans.

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Daily Environment Report for EPA

To: Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
From: Morning Energy
Sent: Tue 5/30/2017 2:05:17 PM
Subject: POLITICO's Morning Energy: World anxiously awaits Trump's final answer on Paris — One EPA vacancy with massive implications — Zinke staffs up

By Anthony Adragna | 05/30/2017 10:00 AM EDT

With help from Alex Guillén and Esther Whieldon

IT'S THE FINAL COUNTDOWN! President Donald Trump has built up the drama around whether the U.S. will stick with the landmark 2015 Paris climate change agreement as if it's an episode of "The Apprentice." He refused to endorse the pact at last weekend's G-7 gathering in Sicily, and tweeted that he would make a final call this week. Secretary of Defense Jim Mattis said on "Face the Nation" Sunday that the president remained "wide open" on the agreement, while Axios reported Trump has told confidants that he plans to withdraw from the pact, citing three people directly familiar with his thinking. Abandoning Paris would put the U.S. alone with Syria and Nicaragua as the only countries on Earth who did not officially join the deal.

Trump already sent a signal to the international community by refusing to join Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan and the U.K. in affirming a "strong commitment" to the Paris agreement in the G-7 statement released Saturday. "The United States of America is in the process of reviewing its policies on climate change and on the Paris Agreement and thus is not in a position to join the consensus on these topics," the leaders wrote. "Understanding this process, the Heads of State and of Government of Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, and the United Kingdom and the Presidents of the European Council and of the European Commission reaffirm their strong commitment to swiftly implement the Paris Agreement, as previously stated at the Ise-Shima Summit."

Don't forget: Even if Trump decides to stay a part of the Paris agreement, he has made it abundantly clear that cutting greenhouse gas emissions will not be a priority for the federal government, as he seeks to revise or eliminate virtually every climate-motivated regulation former President Barack Obama put in place. And even the relative moderates within the White House have long acknowledged that the U.S. would only stick with the pact if they could get a better deal for U.S. coal and oil companies.

IMMINENT EPA SCIENCE VACANCY HAS HIGH SIGNIFICANCE: Amid the worries that EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt is sidelining independent scientific advisers, he apparently has done nothing to make sure that someone will be in charge of EPA's Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee after the term its current chair ends in September, Pro's Eric Wolff reports. Filling that CASAC post is a months-long process, and Pruitt already is getting heat for not reupping several members of the Board of Scientific Counselors, which advises the agency on research matters. Unlike that advisory board, which was established by an earlier administrator, Congress set strict requirements for the types of experts who must serve on CASAC, and charged the committee with evaluating the health risks of key air pollutants to guide EPA's regulations. Without Chair Ana Diez Roux of CASAC, who fills two roles required under the Clean Air Act, the panel "cannot function" in the words of one EPA source. "That process needs to have already

started," the source said.

EPA declined to offer details on the CASAC nomination process, but an agency spokeswoman told Eric "there will be a concerted effort to assure diverse scientific perspectives on advisory panels and to look for additional ways to strengthen scientific review at EPA."

It's not just CASAC: Reshaping the scientific advisory boards has long-been atop the wish list of congressional Republicans and industry groups. Many now see an opportunities to get more industry-friendly perspectives onto panels like the Science Advisory Board and BOSC. "Past advisory groups have had too much representation from individuals who are experts in very narrow fields of study, without experience in integrating across multiple lines of evidence," Michael Honeycutt, chief toxicologist for the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality who unsuccessfully pushed to get onto CASAC last year, told Eric.

WELCOME TO TUESDAY! Hope everyone had a safe and fun Memorial Day break! I'm your host Anthony Adragna, and I was honored to take part in the marriage of two dear friends in Birmingham, Ala.: Huddle host Heather Caygle and Pro Tax's Aaron Lorenzo. Montana state senator Pat Connell was first to identify that Adam Clayton Powell won a Supreme Court case to regain his congressional seat. For today: What congressman, colorfully nicknamed "Pork Barrel," was forced to resign for illegally selling alcohol during Prohibition? Send your tips, energy gossip and comments to aadragna@politico.com, or follow us on Twitter @AnthonyAdragna, @Morning_Energy, and @POLITICOPro.

BEARS EARS COMMENTS ABOUND: More than 120,000 people weighed in on the Trump administration's review of recent monument designations by Friday's deadline to comment on the future of the Bears Ears National Monument in Utah. Most of the comments were from individuals, although a number of industry and environmental groups, native tribes and lawmakers sounded off as well. Zinke has until June 10 to make a recommendation on Bears Ears. Comments on the review of other monuments designated since 1996 will be open through July 10.

Utah's Republican congressional delegation **reiterated** its call for Trump to rescind the Bears Ears monument, saying the state "has repeatedly fallen victim to overreaching use of the Antiquities Act -- a law that has become a tool of political advocacy rather than public interest." The Utah Mining Association said any protections applied to Bears Ears "should be kept to the smallest area possible" to allow BLM to "to fulfill their statutory mandate to manage federal public lands for multiple use."

Several tribes that initially proposed creating the monument, including the Hopi, Navajo and Ute, defended the need for the designation. "It would be a travesty to leave this landscape vulnerable to uranium and fossil-fuel mining, and excessive off-road vehicle use. Additionally, there has been ghastly looting and grave robbing that continues to this day," they said. The Sierra Club argued Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke's review "appears designed to reach a predetermined outcome, namely the reduction or elimination of the Bears Ears National Monument designation." Zinke has insisted he is keeping an open mind in the process.

ZINKE'S IN ALASKA! Zinke is in the midst of a nearly week-long trip around the Arctic Circle and he's in Anchorage today for a slew of events. They include a BBQ meet and greet with agency employees (followed by an all-hands meeting) and an Alaska Federation of Natives meeting. He visited Denali National Park on Memorial Day and also participated in a Byers Lake event on Sunday with Senate Energy Chairman Lisa Murkowski (pic).

And that comes after previous stops on the trip included Norway and Greenland. Senators participating in that delegation included Sens. John Cornyn, John Barrasso, Steve Daines and Heidi Heitkamp. Some pics of the crew in Alaska checking out pipelines here.

INTERIOR STAFFS UP! Zinke formally announced the addition of 19 new staffers to Interior on Friday, Pro's Esther Whieldon reports. Newly announced hires include Zinke's chief of staff, Scott Hommel, who served the same job in Zinke's congressional office; Natalie Davis, who will be special assistant to the secretary; Timothy Williams, Interior's new deputy director of external affairs; and Jason Funes, an assistant in the office of external affairs. A full list of the new people is available here.

MANCHIN VOWS TO 'EDUCATE' COHN ON COAL: Sen. Joe Manchin said he didn't know "what the hell happened" with Trump's top economic adviser Gary Cohn amid skeptical comments about the future of coal from Cohn in Europe last week. "Coal is much needed and it's going to continue to be," Manchin told Breitbart News.

MEETING SOUGHT OVER PASSAIC CLEANUP: Democratic Sens. Robert Menendez, Cory Booker and Chris Coons are questioning whether Maxus Energy Corporation, a wholly owned subsidiary of Argentina's state-owned oil company YPF, filed bankruptcy as part of a strategy to avoid cleaning up the Passaic River. "After enduring decades of contamination, the community surrounding the Passaic River deserves full and comprehensive remediation and each responsible party should be held accountable to pay for it without further delay," they wrote. The senators sought a meeting to further discuss the issue.

GREENS REVIVE COAL LEASING LAWSUIT: Environmental groups on Friday revived a lawsuit in the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals over the Interior Department's coal leasing program. The Western Organization of Resource Councils and Friends of the Earth in 2015 sued in an attempt to force Interior to update its environmental review of the program to include climate change-related effects. The suit was paused more than a year ago when the Obama administration issued its leasing moratorium, but the groups say the Trump administration's lifting of the moratorium means the lawsuit can now continue. Interior does not object to restarting the case, according to the green groups' filing. Zinke has continued with rest of the Obama-era review, but the suit could help pressure Interior to go further in its climate-related analysis than it might otherwise.

HALF-A-BENJAMIN FOR A TON OF CARBON: A team of leading economists has concluded that meeting the world's goals for curbing global warming requires a carbon dioxide price of $40-80 per ton by 2020 and $50-100 by 2030, POLITICO Europe's Sara Stefanini reports. The High-Level Commission on Carbon Prices was created at the United Nations' climate summit in Marrakech last year, and is made up of 13 economists from nine developed

and developing countries.

SCHUMER HITS DEFENSE OVER CLEANUP LAG: Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer hit the Defense Department for delaying cleaning up waste at Stewart Air National Guard base, POLITICO New York's Marie J. French reports. That base contaminated the water supply of Newburgh, New York, forcing the city of 30,000 switch water sources and residents to get blood tests for PFOS.

THIS IS A FUN RECESS TRIP! Rep. Mike Quigley, vice chairman of the Sustainable Energy & Environment Coalition, heads to Rocky Mountain National Park today through Thursday where he'll meet with climate change researchers and National Park Service officials for a firsthand look at impacts. Your hashtag to follow along: #RepInTheRockies.

QUICK HITS

- Tucson Electric Power halts energy-efficiency rebate for businesses. Tucson.com.

- EPA's Pruitt: Agency is 'doing what it's supposed to do' at Osage pollution site. Tulsa World.

- From coal to solar, India's energy landscape is almost too hard to keep up with. Quartz.

- Standing Rock film festival centers around pipeline protest. AP.

- Coal trains fewer as Appalachian railroads keep rolling. Denver Post.

- U.S. may put emergency tariffs on solar imports. Reuters.

- U.S. aid agency under scrutiny for loans in Chile. Reuters.

THAT'S ALL FOR ME!

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Sent: Tue 6/6/2017 5:05:00 PM
Subject: Pruitt: President Trump Is Focused On Growing Our Economy

Pruitt: President Trump Is Focused On Growing Our Economy

WASHINGTON – Earlier today, EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt was on Fox Business where he discussed President Trump's decision to leave the Paris Accord and how the President is focused on growing our economy.

As Fox Business reports:

Click Here To Watch The Interview

BACKGROUND

Pruitt On The Paris Accord …

ADMINISTRATOR PRUITT: "When the Paris Accord was cut, the head, father of climate science, James Hanson, former NASA scientist, called the Paris Accord a fake and a fraud. The Sierra Club's general counsel criticized the deal, because China and India didn't have to take any steps under the deal until 2030. India conditioned all of their activity on two and half trillion dollars in aid that would pass through the green climate fund. . . … This whole process in Paris was all about talk. The previous administration talked a good game, but they did very little. What the President is doing now is saying let's [get] focused on what we achieved as a [country,] export [that] to the rest of the world and engage in true discussions [on] how to reduce co2."

Pruitt On Trump's Vision To Grow Our Economy …

ADMINISTRATOR PRUITT: "Absolutely, we should be focused upon using the greatest innovative technology to keep emission levels low in all areas and also growing an economy."

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Sent: Fri 7/7/2017 11:15:01 AM
Subject: The Morning Headlines from InsideEPA.com -- July 7, 2017

TRUMP'S EPA: Agency at a crossroads -- Complete coverage

July 7, 2017

Latest News

D.C. Circuit Ruling On Methane Rule Delay Boosts Series Of Pending Suits

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit ruling that struck down EPA's administrative stay of Obama-era methane standards for new oil and gas operations could provide a boost for environmentalists hoping to undo similar delays on several other rules, even though the suits test different legal principles.

Former OSHA Official's Criticisms May Aid Opposition To EPA's RMP Delay

A former Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) official is faulting the Trump EPA's delay of Obama-era revisions to the Risk Management Plan (RMP) facility safety program, saying the agency's justification for the stay is "totally frivolous" -- criticisms that could bolster environmentalists' lawsuit challenging the delay.

Public Power Group Seeks 'Early' DOE Role In EPA Review Of NSR, CPP

A Florida public power association is calling for the Department of Energy (DOE) to take a major role in potential efforts to revise EPA's new source review (NSR) program and develop a replacement for the Obama-era Clean Power Plan (CPP) greenhouse gas limits on power plants, suggesting other power sector groups may make similar calls..

Volvo Electrification Plan May Boost Backers Of EPA's Vehicle GHG Rules

Volvo's announcement that all of its new car models beginning in 2019 will be hybrids or electric vehicles -- signaling an end to a reliance on gasoline- or diesel-only powertrains -- is boosting backers of EPA's vehicle greenhouse gas rules who say it highlights an industry shift to clean vehicles that runs counter to any Trump administration moves to weaken the standards.

EPA Proposal To Cut Radiation Program May Affect Cleanups, Standards

EPA's fiscal year 2018 budget request would completely eliminate the agency's radiation protection program in the air office, potentially leaving Superfund radiation

cleanup sites without technical support on radionuclides and likely leaving the agency without funds to fulfill responsibilities to write radiation protection standards, according to sources who follow the program.

Daily Feed

States seek to intervene in defense of 2015 ozone NAAQS

Democrat-led states say the Trump EPA's hostility to the 2015 ozone rule requires them to intervene in order to take up defending the policy.

Senate Democrats seek GAO review of EPA's advisory panels

"To be effective, these advisory committees must be -- and, just as importantly, be perceived as being -- independent and balanced," the senators wrote in their letter to GAO.

EPA dam study shows need to maintain Chesapeake funds, lawmaker says

Concerns about nutrient-laden sediment prompt a Virginia Democrat to call for full funding of EPA's Chesapeake Bay cleanup effort.

States warn CRA suit could revive stream protection rule

Several GOP states say a successful suit overturning the Congressional Review Act could revive a host of Obama-era policies they oppose, including a stream protection policy.

Quote-Unquote: Talking about budgets and science

This week's quotes address the continuing debate over EPA's fiscal year 2018 budget request and controversy over TSCA's definition of "best available science."

Several states seek to back suit over chlorpyrifos ban reversal

Six Democratic attorneys general are seeking a role in environmentalists' suit challenging EPA's decision to reverse an Obama-era plan to prohibit the use of chlorpyrifos on food.

Ewire: House approps chair under pressure to boost EPA funds

EPA's FY18 budget may be a factor in Rep. Rodney Frelinghuysen's (R-NJ) re-election bid next year.

States challenge methane rule delay

The states' challenge to BLM's methane rule delay may be buoyed by recent rulings backing challenges to Trump EPA rule delays.

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To: Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
From: Morning Score
Sent: Fri 9/8/2017 2:04:40 PM
Subject: POLITICO's Morning Score: DENT TO RETIRE — Democrats mad at Sanders (again) — Vukmir to challenge Baldwin in Wisconsin

By Kevin Robillard | 09/08/2017 10:00 AM EDT

With Zach Montellaro, Maggie Severns and Daniel Strauss

The following newsletter is an abridged version of Campaign Pro's Morning Score. For an earlier morning read on exponentially more races - and for a more comprehensive aggregation of the day's most important campaign news - sign up for Campaign Pro today. (http://www.politicopro.com/proinfo)

DENTED - "GOP moderate Rep. Dent won't seek re-election in 2018," by Kyle Cheney and Alex Isenstadt: "Pennsylvania Rep. Charlie Dent, a Republican who occupies a swing district, will not seek reelection in 2018, he confirmed in a statement on Thursday night. Dent issued a statement emphasizing his lengthy career in public office and noting that he 'never planned on serving' more than five or six terms - but he's now in his seventh. ... Dent's retirement comes the day after another swing district Republican, Washington Rep. Dave Reichert, announced he was calling it quits. Florida Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, another moderate, is also retiring. Democrats are certain to target all three seats in next year's midterms. Dent's announced departure comes one day after state Rep. Justin Simmons said he would challenge him in a primary. Dent spent much of 2017 opposing President Donald Trump's agenda, to the chagrin of hardline conservatives, who vowed to oppose him." **Full story.**

- From Dent's statement: "As a member of the governing wing of the Republican Party, I've worked to instill stability, certainty and predictability in Washington. I've fought to fulfill the basic functions of Government, like keeping the lights on and preventing default. Regrettably, that has not been easy given the disruptive outside influences that profit from increased polarization and ideological rigidity that leads to dysfunction, disorder and chaos."

- Reminder: Three (contested) seats may make a trend, but it doesn't make a majority.

BADGER STATE BATTLE - "Leah Vukmir enters Republican U.S. Senate race in bid to unseat Democrat Tammy Baldwin," by the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel's Bill Glauber: "Vowing to bring the 'Wisconsin Way' to the U.S. Senate, state Sen. Leah Vukmir of Brookfield entered the race for the Republican nomination to take on Democratic incumbent Tammy Baldwin next year. In a campaign video and announcement that was released Thursday morning, Vukmir cast herself as a 'consistent conservative' who during tough political battles stood side by side with Republican Gov. Scott Walker. ... By emphasizing her deep roots among Wisconsin Republicans, Vukmir, 59, is seeking to offer a vivid contrast with the only other candidate in race, Delafield businessman and U.S. Marine veteran Kevin Nicholson. ... A Vukmir-Nicholson political battle has already brought in two of the biggest contributors to the GOP. Beloit billionaire Diane Hendricks, owner of ABC Supply, will serve as Vukmir's finance co-chair. Richard Uihlein, who lives in Lake Forest, Ill., and is co-owner of Pleasant Prairie-based Uline

Corp., has already poured in $3.5 million into a super PAC that backs Nicholson." **Full story.**

- Big money comes to Senate primaries: The fight between Nicholson (and Uihlein) and Vukmir (and Hendricks) and potentially self-funding businessman Eric Hovde will be just one of several GOP Senate primaries that could see huge spending in 2018. The Club for Growth already has $10 million set aside for Missouri Attorney General Josh Hawley, some of which is likely to be spent fending off primary challengers. Both Rep. Evan Jenkins and Attorney General Patrick Morissey have super PACs in West Virginia. The Club for Growth is with Nicholson and state Auditor Matt Rosendale in Montana.

2016 REDUX - "Bernie backers' attacks on Democrats infuriate the party," by Gabriel Debenedetti: "Prominent Democrats are increasingly riled by attacks from Bernie Sanders ' supporters, whose demands for ideological purity are hurting the party ahead of the 2018 midterms and 2020 presidential election, they say. But it's not just the outside agitators that Democratic lawmakers, operatives, and activists are annoyed with: They're tired of what they see as the senator's hesitance to confront his own backers, either in public or through back channels. Tensions boiled over recently when a handful of Sanders loyalists bashed freshman Sen. Kamala Harris - a rising star in the party and potential 2020 hopeful - as an establishment tool. Democrats were also rankled that other prominent Sanders allies said support for single-payer health care should be a litmus test for candidates.

In response, Democratic senators and outside groups have begun telling Sanders and friendly intermediaries that if he wants to be a leading figure for Democrats ahead of 2020's presidential election, he needs to get his supporters in line - or at least publicly disavow their more incendiary statements. ... The complaints have largely gone unheeded by Sanders' camp. Many of the senator's closest allies insist such frustration simply reflects the same misunderstanding of Sanders' "political revolution" Democrats have had since he first started running for president. 'Bernie Sanders really does lead a movement, he doesn't run an organization. And movements are different from organizations,' said Mark Longabaugh, a veteran Democratic strategist who was a senior advisor to Sanders' campaign. 'A movement operates organically and moves on its own. It can have leaders, but no one directs a movement.'" **Full story.**

NEW POLLING - ECU finds House Democrats with higher approval than Republican counterparts: House Democrats in key battleground districts tend to have a higher approval rating than Republicans, left-leaning End Citizens United found in a new poll of 50 of the most competitive House districts. ECU found Democrats in competitive districts had an overall job approval of 53 percent ,while Republicans' approval was 37 percent. And 30 percent of voters disapproved of Democratic incumbents, while 40 percent disapproved of Republicans.

ECU also polled Trump's popularity and found that 37 percent of likely voters approve of the president's job performance, while 61 percent disapprove. Among Independents, 34 percent approved of Trump's job performance and 61 percent approved. The poll was conducted by Normington, Petts & Associates of 1,000 likely voters in 50 top battleground districts (31 currently held by Republicans and 19 held by Democrats) between Aug. 24 and Sept. 5. The margin of error is 3.1 percentage points.

Days until the 2017 election: 60.

Days until the 2018 election: 424.

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You can also follow us on Twitter: @politicoscott, @ec_schneider, @politicokevin, @danielstrauss4 and @maggieseverns.

MENENDEZ WATCH - "Federal Judge excoriates Sen. Menendez prosecution team," by the Washington Post's Devlin Barrett: "The judge overseeing the bribery trial of Sen. Robert Menendez ripped into prosecutors Thursday for trying to focus on what he called 'tabloid' details - an unusual description for dry testimony about a series of emails about a hotel reservation. U.S. District Judge William Walls stopped testimony for 20 minutes in which he tongue-lashed prosecutors for their painstaking recounting of emails used to book a luxury hotel in Paris for the New Jersey Democrat in 2010. The three-day hotel stay is a central part of the Justice Department's case. ... He halted questioning of FBI supervisory analyst Jane Ruch about emails discussing Menendez's lunch plans during the trip. After having the jury leave the courtroom, the judge lit into Justice Department lawyers. 'I don't think it's a sin for him to want a limestone bath, per se,' Walls said. 'It's tabloid in nature. . . . Whether these defendants engaged in bribery does not depend on whether the senator chose a more expensive room. We're not talking about Days Inn." **Full story.**

- Here's what Democratic senators up in 2018 have to say. Missouri Sen. Claire McCaskill, to HuffPost: "I'm a former prosecutor, so I was trained appropriately to never discuss a trial until it is completed. That process needs to be completed before we all start weighing in politically." ... West Virginia Sen. Joe Manchin, to CNN : "We are a country of laws. And I think people should just let this process go through before they come to judgment in any way shape or form." ... Montana Sen. Jon Tester told CNN he's been focused on wildfires in his home state: "I haven't really been paying attention to the trial."

EARLY POLLING NUMBERS - "Poll shows Schuette, Whitmer deadlocked in potential matchup for Michigan governor," by the Detroit Free Press' Paul Egan: "If Michigan's election for governor was held today, the party's presumed front-runners - Democrat Gretchen Whitmer and Republican Bill Schuette - would be deadlocked in a head-to-head matchup, according to a new poll. But Schuette would defeat another potential Democratic candidate - Southfield trial attorney Geoffrey Fieger - by 10 percentage points, says the poll from EPIC-MRA of Lansing." Full story.

- FIRST IN SCORE - New Tennesseans for Conservative Action poll: New polling by Tennesseans for Conservative Action obtained first by Score finds President Donald Trump with an 82 percent job performance approval among Republicans in the state. The poll also found voters divided among which Republican gubernatorial candidate to support. About 14 percent said they support Rep. Diane Black , while 11 percent said they back former Tennessee

Economic and Community Development Commissioner Randy Boyd. Another 7.4 percent picked Tennessee House Speaker Beth Harwell. But the majority of those surveyed (57 percent) said they were undecided. Read the full results **here**.

- Ryan challenger releases polling showing him down nine: Randy Bryce, the ironworker making a much-hyped challenge to House Speaker Paul Ryan, released a poll showing him trailing Ryan by nine points, 46 percent to 37 percent. The poll, from Global Strategy Group, has Trump's approval rating at just 42 percent in the district, and Ryan's approval rating at 50 percent. After reading short, positive biographies of both men, Bryce takes a 44 percent to 41 percent lead. **Full results here.**

SHADOW PRIMARY - Zinke's wife backs Downing: "Troy Downing, GOP candidate for the U.S. Senate [in Montana], said Wednesday that Lola Zinke, wife of Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke, will serve as his campaign chairwoman," the Great Falls Tribune reported. **Full story.**

2018 WATCH - "Donna Lynne makes it official, enters Colorado governor's race," by the Denver Post's John Frank: "Gov. John Hickenlooper picked Lynne, a former health insurance company executive, for the state's No. 2 ranking job in March 2016. Lynne initially said she wouldn't run to succeed him in two years, but now she enters the race with Hickenlooper's support and the power of the office to help boost her bid. ... A first-time candidate with no political base of support, Lynne faces a difficult challenge in her bid to top four prominent challengers - businessman Noel Ginsburg, former state Sen. Mike Johnston, former state Treasurer Cary Kennedy and U.S. Rep. Jared Polis - who have been securing support and raising money for months now." **Full story.**

QUOTE OF THE DAY: "The press has been incredible." - Donald Trump to Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi in a morning phone call, discussing coverage of their deal to extend the debt limit for three months.

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Subject: EPA Determines Risks from Hardrock Mining Industry Minimal and No Need for Additional Federal Requirements

EPA Determines Risks from Hardrock Mining Industry Minimal andNo Need for Additional Federal Requirements

WASHINGTON (December 1, 2017) – Today the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced that the Agency will not issue final regulations for financial responsibility requirements for certain hardrock mining facilities.

"After careful analysis of public comments, the statutory authority, and the record for this rulemaking, EPA is confident that modern industry practices, along with existing state and federal requirements address risks from operating hardrock mining facilities," **said EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt.** "Additional financial assurance requirements are unnecessary and would impose an undue burden on this important sector of the American economy and rural America, where most of these mining jobs are based."

EPA published proposed regulations under section 108(b) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA, or Superfund) on January 11, 2017, and the public comment period closed on July 11, 2017. EPA has decided not to issue final regulations because the risks associated with these facilities' operations are addressed by existing federal and state programs and industry practices. EPA was under a court-ordered deadline to take final action on this rulemaking by December 1, 2017. The decision not to issue final rules under CERCLA section 108(b) will be published in the Federal Register.

EPA has analyzed the need for financial responsibility requirements under CERCLA section 108(b) based on the degree and duration of risk associated with the production, transportation, treatment, storage, and disposal of hazardous substances from current hardrock mining operations, as well the risk of taxpayer funded cleanups at facilities operating under modern management practices and modern environmental regulations. That risk is identified by examining: the management of hazardous substances at such facilities; federal and state regulatory controls on that management and federal and state financial responsibility requirements; and, the payment experience of the Fund in responding to releases.

EPA concluded the degree and duration of risk associated with the modern production, transportation, treatment, storage or disposal of hazardous substances by the hardrock mining industry does not present a level of risk of taxpayer funded response actions that warrant imposition of financial responsibility requirements under CERCLA for this sector. This determination reflects EPA's interpretation of the statute, EPA's evaluation of the record for the proposed rule, and the approximately 11,000 public comments received by EPA on this rulemaking.

State mining and environmental regulators, as well as other federal agencies and the regulated community and financial sectors, commented that the proposed requirements would potentially interfere with state and local mining regulations, were unnecessary, and would be difficult to implement. This decision does not in any way affect EPA's authority to take appropriate response actions under CERCLA.

“I urged then President-elect Trump to stop the EPA’s overreach into state regulation harming Montana businesses,” said **U.S. Senate Western Caucus Chairman Steve Daines (R-MT).** “Instead of threatening the very industries that are a backbone of our Western economies, we need to support American families and American businesses to secure our mineral and energy independence. I am pleased the EPA has taken action.”

“I am grateful for Administrator Pruitt’s leadership in eliminating this costly, duplicative, and job-killing rule,” **said Arizona Governor Doug Ducey.** "Arizona already has financial responsibility protections in place for hardrock mines and does not need a duplicative federal program that will unnecessarily burden a key Arizona industry."

“I am thankful that the EPA and Administrator Pruitt have decided to reject the proposed CERCLA rule,” **said Idaho Governor Butch Otter.** “This is another victory for returning power to the states.”

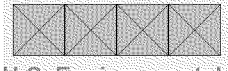
“The pending CERCLA 108(b) rulemaking has been at the top of my agenda,” **said Nevada Governor Brian Sandoval.** “The success of Nevada’s robust mine bonding program protects public safety and our environment and ensures our critical mining industry can operate with certainty. I applaud the EPA for their thoughtful approach and thorough review of the proposed rule, for seeking comments from a diverse set of stakeholders and ultimately, for making the right decision. Today’s action by the Administrator recognizes the reality that the states have been capably regulating mine bonding without interference from Washington and should be allowed to continue to do so.”

“States have developed comprehensive financial responsibility programs for hardrock mining in the 30 years since the passage of CERCLA 108(b)(1),” **said Jim Ogsbury, executive director of the bipartisan Western Governors’ Association.** “These programs require operators to comply with state regulations, implement reclamation and post-closure plans, and post financial assurance to minimize risks to public health and the environment. Western Governors appreciate EPA’s decision regarding its proposed financial assurance requirements under CERCLA 108(b), which would have duplicated or supplanted existing and proven state financial assurance regulations.”

"EPA's actions to rescind the CERCLA 108(b) financial assurance rule is another positive step by EPA in eliminating redundant regulations and recognizing the importance of cooperative federalism," **said Todd Parfitt, director of Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality.**

A pre-publication version of this action may be viewed at: https://www.epa.gov/superfund/proposed-rule-financial-responsibility-requirements-under-cercla-section-108b-classes

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To: Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
From: InsideEPA/climate
Sent: Thur 6/29/2017 9:18:48 PM
Subject: Today on Climate Beat

June 29, 2017

Today on Climate Beat . . .

. . . we went to court, where a federal magistrate judge has granted industry groups' request to leave a case in which they had been intervening on behalf of the U.S. government in defending against claims by youths that the administration is violating their constitutional and public trust rights by failing to protect them from climate change impacts.

Staying in court, EPA has submitted its second round of status reports in litigation challenging the Obama-era greenhouse gas standards for new and modified and existing power plants, reiterating that it has initiated White House review of a proposal to repeal the Clean Power Plan and urging the court to continue holding the cases in abeyance.

In Congress, the Senate environment panel has postponed until July 12 a business meeting where lawmakers are expected to vote on the confirmation of EPA enforcement chief Susan Bodine, who is expected to face Democratic opposition.

And our daily news roundup previewed a move by President Donald Trump to launch a comprehensive review of nuclear safety regulation in a bid to aid the sector.

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To: Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
From: EPA Press Office
Sent: Wed 9/13/2017 4:04:35 PM
Subject: Pruitt Discusses His Back-To-Basics Agenda With The Washington Examiner

Pruitt Discusses His Back-To-Basics Agenda With The Washington Examiner

Click Here To Watch The Video

Scott Pruitt Criticizes Obama As 'Environmental Savior'
Moves EPA Away From Climate Change
Josh Siegel
September 13, 2017
http://www.washingtonexaminer.com/scott-pruitt-criticizes-obama-as-environmental-savior-moves-epa-away-from-climate-change/article/2634253

Few Trump administration agency chiefs have moved as decisively to implement an agenda as Scott Pruitt, the administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, and he's quite clear about what he wants to do.

He calls it a "back to the basics" agenda, removing the government from what he considers extraneous activity — namely, the climate change battle taken up by former President Barack Obama, who he questioned as an "environmental savior."

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To: Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
From: Bloomberg BNA
Sent: Tue 6/27/2017 10:53:16 PM
Subject: June 27 -- Energy and Climate Report

Energy and Climate Report

June 27, 2017 - Number 123

News

Budget
House Appropriators Move to Eliminate Funding for ARPA-E
The Energy Department's Advanced Research Projects Agency—Energy (ARPA-E) would have its funding eliminated in spending legislation released June 27 by Republicans on the House Appropriations committee.

Climate Policy
Germany Prepares Fund to Encourage Pension-Pot Climate Spending
Germany's environment ministry is to start its first fund aimed at reducing the risk of financing clean-energy projects in emerging nations.

Coal Mining
$1 Billion Mine Cleanup Bill Moves to Full House
A bill that would speed the delivery of $1 billion to states grappling with old, unreclaimed mine sites passed a House committee June 27.

Coal-Fired Power Plants
Navajo Vote to Extend Large Coal-Fired Power Plant's Lease
The massive coal-fired Navajo Generating Station can continue to operate through 2019 after the Navajo Nation Council approved legislation allowing it more time to shut down.

Congress
EPA Prying Into Witness Testimony Merits Probe: Democrats
House Science Committee Democrats are calling for an investigation into potential inappropriate interference from EPA into an agency science adviser's testimony before Congress.

Energy
Energy Regulator to Retire June 30, Leaving One Commissioner
The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's Colette Honorable said her last day will be June 30, leaving the independent agency with one remaining member and four vacancies.

Energy
Energy Secretary Supports Nuclear, but Funding Cut Proposed
Energy Secretary Rick Perry called domestic nuclear energy development a "game changer" at the start of White House "Energy Week," but the department's proposed budget would cut funding for its nuclear office.

Energy

Perry Seeks Energy Pact with Mexico, Canada as NAFTA Talks Near

The U.S. has a unique opportunity to develop a "North American energy strategy" with Canada and Mexico, Energy Secretary Rick Perry said, striking a conciliatory tone with the other members of the North American Free Trade Agreement.

Energy

Perry: Renewables Affect Grid Reliability; FERC Member Refutes

Energy Secretary Rick Perry said previous policies benefiting renewable resources threaten baseload resources and lead to a less reliable electric grid, but Federal Energy Regulatory Commissioner Colette Honorable refuted his claim.

Energy

Pumped Hydropower Storage Bill Passes House

A bill designed to eliminate regulatory uncertainty in hydropower storage at federal reservoirs passed the House June 27.

Energy

Westinghouse Dealt Setback in Bid to Recover $2 Billion

Westinghouse Electric Co. was dealt a setback in its bid to recover $2 billion from Chicago Bridge & Iron Co. NV stemming from cost overruns at unfinished nuclear reactors in South Carolina and Georgia.

Hydraulic Fracturing

Interior May Restore Pre-2015 Federal Fracking Regulations

The Interior Department appears poised to rescind its 2015 rule on hydraulic fracturing outright, after which it may simply revert to the pre-existing status quo on federal regulations for fracking on federal and Indian lands.

Radioactive Waste

Adviser Promoted as Acting Head of Nuclear Waste Cleanup Office

James Owendoff was named as acting head of the Energy Department's Office of Environmental Management, which is responsible for the cleanup of waste from the government's nuclear weapons program.

Shareholder Proposals

Energy Giants May Be Bowing to Investor Sway on Climate Stance

Energy companies may be more willing to give in to investor demand for disclosure on climate change after a record show of support for environmental issues this proxy season.

Tax Policy

Pass and Go: Four Non-Tax Reform Bills That Could Move This Year

Top House Republicans have vowed repeatedly to make sweeping tax reform a reality this year—but that effort won't be the only chance to see tax action.

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Energy and Climate Report

To: Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
From: Bloomberg BNA
Sent: Wed 6/7/2017 1:05:19 PM
Subject: June 07 -- EHS State Regulatory Alert

EHS State Regulatory Alert

June 07, 2017 - Number 108

You can create a report customized by topic, jurisdiction, and date range by using the Regulatory Summaries Report Tool. The report can be generated in Excel, Word, or PDF.

Alabama

GENERAL ENVIRONMENT AND SAFETY
Department of Environmental Management/Communications
Alabama GENERAL ENVIRONMENT AND SAFETY

Proposed rule of the Department of Environmental Management amends regulations under AAC 335-1-1-.08 regarding communications with the department. The rule updates the address used for submission of correspondence, applications, reports, or other required documents. A hearing is scheduled for July 13, 2017, in Montgomery. Comments are due July 13, 2017. Contact: David Hutchinson; DEM; 334-271-7711

—Alabama Administrative Monthly (05/31/2017)

Regulatory Update

GENERAL ENVIRONMENT AND SAFETY
Department of Environmental Management/Organization
Alabama GENERAL ENVIRONMENT AND SAFETY

Proposed rule of the Department of Environmental Management amends regulations under AAC 335-1-1-.07 regarding departmental forms, instructions and procedures. The rule adds two forms, revises 45 forms and deletes 27 forms. A hearing is scheduled for July 13, 2017, in Montgomery. Comments are due July 13, 2017. Contact: David Hutchinson; DEM; 334-271-7711

—Alabama Administrative Monthly (05/31/2017)

Regulatory Update

WATER
Department of Environmental Management/Permit Application Fees
Alabama WATER

Proposed rule of the Department of Environmental Management amends regulations under AAC 335-1-6-.04 regarding permit application fees. The rule corrects fee schedule B for coastal use permits statewide, water quality certification, and project reviews. The rule also removes fee schedule F for National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System construction materials, noncoal, nonmetallic mining, excavation, borrow, disturbance, development dry processing storage, and transloading sites. A hearing is scheduled for July 13, 2017. Comments are due July 13, 2017. Contact: David Hutchinson; DEM; 334-271-7711

—Alabama Administrative Monthly (05/31/2017)

Regulatory Update

Alaska

OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH
Plumbing Code
Alaska OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH

Proposed rule of the Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Division of Labor Standards and Safety, amends regulations under 8 AAC 63.010 regarding minimum plumbing standards. The rule incorporates by reference the 2015 Uniform Plumbing Code and deletes unnecessary language. Comments are due July 5, 2017. Contact: William Harlan; DLWD, Division of Labor Standards and Safety; 907-465-2700; anchorage.lss-mi@alaska.gov

—Alaska Regulations (06/05/2017)

Regulatory Update

California Regions

WATER
Scott and Shasta River Watersheds/Waste Discharge Requirements Conditional Waiver
California Regions WATER

Notice of the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board announces the availability of draft orders renewing the conditional waiver of waste discharge requirements for specific land management activities in the Scott and Shasta river watersheds (Order Nos. R1-2017-0031 and R1-2017-0032). The orders provide for waiver of requirements to file a Report of Waste Discharge and obtain Waste Discharge Requirements for discharges addressed in the Scott and Shasta river total maximum daily load action plans for dischargers that implement specified conditions and North Coast region water quality control plan measures. Workshops are scheduled for June 14 and 29, 2017, in Yreka and Santa Rosa, respectively. A meeting is scheduled for Oct. 19, 2017, at a location to be determined. Comments are due July 7, 2017. Contact: Eli Scott; North Coast RWQCB; 707-576-2610; Elias.Scott@waterboards.ca.gov

—California RegionsRegulations (06/01/2017)

Regulatory Update

New Hampshire

AIR

Sources of Hazardous Air Pollutants

New Hampshire AIR

Proposed rule of the Department of Environmental Services amends regulations under NHAR Env-A 500 and adopts regulations under NHAR Env-A 506 regarding standards applicable to certain new or modified facilities and sources of hazardous air pollutants. The rule updates the incorporation by reference of new source performance standards (NSPS) and national emission standards for hazardous air pollutants (NESHAP) under 40 CFR 60, 61, and 63, as of July 1, 2016. The rule also incorporates the NSPS for municipal solid waste landfills (Subpart XXX), new residential wood heaters (Subpart AAA), and new residential hydronic heaters and forced air furnaces (Subpart QQQQ). In addition, the rule incorporates federal requirements under 40 CFR 62, Subpart LLL, concerning the federal plan requirements for existing sewage sludge incineration units. A hearing is scheduled for June 29, 2017, in Concord. Comments are due July 7, 2017. Contact: Karla McManus; DES, Air Division; 603-271-6854; Karla.McManus@des.nh.gov

—New Hampshire Rulemaking Register (06/01/2017)

Regulatory Update

New Jersey

HAZARDOUS WASTE CLEANUP

Site Remediation Professional Licensing Board/Fees

New Jersey HAZARDOUS WASTE CLEANUP

Notice of the Department of Environmental Protection, Site Remediation Professional Licensing Board, announces the availability of the fee calculation report for calendar year 2017. The report, which is required under NJAC 7:26I-3, addresses calculations for the application fee, renewal fee, and annual license fee and specifies that the fiscal year 2016 data proposed for the calculation of calendar 2017 fees does not support a change to the fees. The notice also specifies a need for improved and more accurate collection of such data and announces uncertainties in projections for the fiscal 2017 budget. Contact: DEP, Site Remediation Program; 609-292-1250

—New Jersey Register (06/05/2017)

Regulatory Update

OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH

Health and Safety Standards for Public Employees/Hazard Communication

New Jersey OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH

Final rule of the Department of Labor and Workforce Development amends regulations under NJAC 12:100-1.3 through -13.2 (nonconsecutive); repeals and readopts regulations under NJAC 12:100-7.1 and :100-7, Appendices A and B; and repeals regulations under NJAC 12:100-7.2 through -7.9 (nonconsecutive) and :100-7, Appendices C, D, and E, regarding standards for hazard communication. The rule specifies that March 26, 2012, amendments to the federal hazard communication standard (HazCom 2012) apply to public employees and adds the appropriate cross-reference; provides alternative definitions of certain federal entities to which HazCom 2012 assigns functions; and removes obsolete provisions regarding HazCom 1994. The rule also incorporates by reference the right-to-know poster and brochure, clarifies that commissioners are to establish standards in accordance with applicable law, updates references, and removes unnecessary language. The rule is effective June 5, 2017. Contact: Joy Lindo; DOH; 609-984-2177

—New Jersey Register (06/05/2017)

Regulatory Update

WATER
Highlands Water Protection and Planning Act Rules
New Jersey WATER

Final rule of the Department of Environmental Protection, Division of Land Use Management, amends regulations under NJAC 7:38-1.4 and -3.4 regarding the septic system density standards in the Highlands Water Protection and Planning Act rules. The rule defines and establishes three land use capability (LUC) zones for conservation, existing community and protection. The rule also sets forth the method for determining the number of permitted septic systems on a lot that has land located in more than one of the LUC zones and removes outdated language. The rule is effective June 5, 2017. Contact: Colin Emerle; DEP, Office of Legal Affairs; 609-292-0716

—New Jersey Register (06/05/2017)

Regulatory Update

WATER
New Jersey Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Fees
New Jersey WATER

Notice of the Department of Environmental Protection, Division of Water Quality, announces the adoption of the fiscal year 2017 New Jersey Pollutant Discharge Elimination System annual fee report and assessment of fees under NJAC 7:14A-3.1. The program administers permitting of wastewater discharges from publicly and privately owned wastewater management systems, including certain stormwater discharges, and the disposal of residuals from treatment systems. Contact: Terry Beym; DEP, Division of Water Quality; 609-984-4428

—New Jersey Register (06/05/2017)

Regulatory Update

Ohio

AIR
Particulate Matter Standards
Ohio AIR

Proposed rule of the Ohio EPA amends regulations under OAC 3745-17-01 through -14 (nonconsecutive) concerning standards for particulate matter. The rule removes facilities and emission units that have been permanently shutdown and adds an additional compliance option for certain facilities, including utilities, that are required to use a continuous opacity monitor to comply with visible emissions requirements. The rule also clarifies that salvageable material is intended for reuse or restoration. In addition, the rule adds definitions to reflect exemptions for residential wood burning appliances and pellet stoves. The rule will be submitted to the EPA as a revision to the state implementation plan. A hearing is scheduled for July 11, 2017, in Columbus. Comments are due July 11, 2017. Contact: Michael Maleski; OEPA, Division of Air Pollution Control; 614-644-1961; michael.maleski@epa.ohio.gov

—Ohio Regulations (06/05/2017)

Regulatory Update

Utah

AIR
Air Quality/Nonattainment and Maintenance Areas for Particulate Matter
Utah AIR

Proposed rule of the Department of Environmental Quality, Division of Air Quality, amends regulations under R307-309-3 through -12 and repeals regulations under R307-309-13 regarding fugitive emissions and fugitive dust in nonattainment and maintenance areas for particulate matter (PM-10) and fine particulate matter (PM-2.5). The rule clarifies that the provisions apply to fugitive dust sources one-quarter acre or more. The rule also clarifies the method for observing fugitive emissions to allow for observations at varying lengths of duration. In addition, the rule requires that sources keep compliance records for a two-year period and removes unnecessary language concerning compliance schedules. Comments are due July 3, 2017. Contact: Ryan Stephens; DEQ, Division of Air Quality; 801-536-4419; rstephens@utah.gov

—Utah State Bulletin (06/01/2017)

Regulatory Update

AIR
Clean Fuel Vehicle Tax Credits
Utah AIR

Proposed rule of the Department of Environmental Quality, Division of Air Quality, amends regulations under R307-122-2 and -4 regarding general requirements for the clean air and efficient vehicle tax credit. The rule adds heavy-duty vehicles that have hydrogen-electric and 100 percent electric drivetrains to the definition of a "qualified heavy duty vehicle." Comments are due July 3,

2017. Contact: Mat Carlile; DEQ, Division of Air Quality; 801-536-4116; mcarlile@utah.gov

—Utah State Bulletin (06/01/2017)

Regulatory Update

AIR
Nitrogen Oxide Emission Limits for Natural Gas-Fired Water Heaters
Utah AIR

Proposed rule of the Department of Environmental Quality, Division of Air Quality, adopts regulations under R307-230 to specify nitrogen oxide emission limits for natural gas-fired water heaters. Comments are due July 3, 2017. Contact: Ryan Stephens; DEQ, Division of Air Quality; 801-536-4419; rstephens@utah.gov

—Utah State Bulletin (06/01/2017)

Regulatory Update

HAZARDOUS WASTE MANAGEMENT
Class IV and VI Landfill Requirements
Utah HAZARDOUS WASTE MANAGEMENT

Proposed rule of the Department of Environmental Quality, Division of Waste Management and Radiation Control, amends regulations under R315-305-3 regarding Class IV and VI landfill requirements. The rule aligns hazardous waste requirements with Nov. 28, 2016, amendments to the Hazardous Waste Generator Improvements Rule under 40 CFR 257. The rule revises definitions to change the title of the lowest category of hazardous waste generation from "conditionally exempt small quantity generator" to "very small quantity generator." Comments are due July 3, 2017. Contact: Rusty Lundberg; DEQ, Division of Waste Management and Radiation Control; 801-536-4257; rlundberg@utah.gov

—Utah State Bulletin (06/01/2017)

Regulatory Update

HAZARDOUS WASTE MANAGEMENT
Hazardous Waste Management System
Utah HAZARDOUS WASTE MANAGEMENT

Proposed rule of the Department of Environmental Quality, Division of Waste Management and Radiation Control, amends regulations under R315-260-10 and -11 regarding the state hazardous waste management system to incorporate Nov. 28, 2016, amendments to the Hazardous Waste Generator Improvements Rule under 40 CFR 260. The rule reorganizes and consolidates generator requirements, updates hazardous waste management standards, and revises the title of the lowest category of hazardous waste generation from "conditionally exempt small quantity generator" to "very small quantity generator." Comments are due July 3, 2017. Contact: Rusty Lundberg; DEQ, Division of Waste Management and Radiation Control; 801-536-4257; rlundberg@utah.gov

—Utah State Bulletin (06/01/2017)

Regulatory Update

HAZARDOUS WASTE MANAGEMENT
Hazardous Waste Permit Program
Utah HAZARDOUS WASTE MANAGEMENT

Proposed rule of the Department of Environmental Quality, Division of Waste Management and Radiation Control, amends regulations under R315-270-1 regarding the hazardous waste permit program to align with Nov. 28, 2016, amendments to the federal Hazardous Waste Generator Improvements Rule under 40 CFR 270.1. The rule revises generator requirements and changes the title of the lowest category of hazardous waste generation from "conditionally exempt small quantity generator" to "very small quantity generator." Comments are due July 3, 2017. Contact: Rusty Lundberg; DEQ, Division of Waste Management and Radiation Control; 801-536-4257; rlundberg@utah.gov

—Utah State Bulletin (06/01/2017)

Regulatory Update

HAZARDOUS WASTE MANAGEMENT
Hazardous Waste TSD Facilities
Utah HAZARDOUS WASTE MANAGEMENT

Proposed rule of the Department of Environmental Quality, Division of Waste Management and Radiation Control, amends regulations under R315-264-1 through - (nonconsecutive) regarding standards for owners and operators of hazardous waste treatment, storage, and disposal (TSD) facilities. The rule aligns requirements with Nov. 28, 2016, amendments to the federal Hazardous Waste Generator Improvements Rule under 40 CFR 264. The rule also clarifies the applicability of provisions for on-site accumulation of hazardous wastes by generators, owners or operators who ship hazardous waste generated at their facility, or operators consolidating waste from very small quantity generators. In addition, the rule updates biennial reporting requirements for owners or operators. Comments are due July 3, 2017. Contact: Rusty Lundberg; DEQ, Division of Waste Management and Radiation Control; 801-536-4257; rlundberg@utah.gov

—Utah State Bulletin (06/01/2017)

Regulatory Update

HAZARDOUS WASTE MANAGEMENT
Identification and Listing of Hazardous Waste
Utah HAZARDOUS WASTE MANAGEMENT

Proposed rule of the Department of Environmental Quality, Division of Waste Management and Radiation Control, amends regulations under R315-261-1, -4, -6, -33, and -420 and repeals regulations under R315-261-5 regarding the identification and listing of hazardous waste to align with Nov. 28, 2016, amendments to the federal Hazardous Waste Generator Improvements Rule under 40 CFR 261. The rule revises generator requirements and changes the title of the lowest category of hazardous waste generation from "conditionally exempt small quantity generator" to "very small quantity generator." The rule also establishes personnel training requirements for proper waste handling and emergency procedures relevant to their responsibilities during normal

facility operations and emergencies. Comments are due July 3, 2017. Contact: Rusty Lundberg; DEQ, Division of Waste Management and Radiation Control; 801-536-4257; rlundberg@utah.gov

—Utah State Bulletin (06/01/2017)

Regulatory Update

HAZARDOUS WASTE MANAGEMENT
Industrial Solid Waste Landfills
Utah HAZARDOUS WASTE MANAGEMENT

Proposed rule of the Department of Environmental Quality, Division of Waste Management and Radiation Control, amends regulations under R315-304-3 regarding industrial solid waste landfill requirements. The rule aligns hazardous waste requirements with Nov. 28, 2016, amendments to the federal Hazardous Waste Generator Improvements Rule under 40 CFR 257. The rule revises generator requirements and changes the title of the lowest category of hazardous waste generation from "conditionally exempt small quantity generator" to "very small quantity generator." Comments are due July 3, 2017. Contact: Rusty Lundberg; DEQ, Division of Waste Management and Radiation Control; 801-536-4257; rlundberg@utah.gov

—Utah State Bulletin (06/01/2017)

Regulatory Update

HAZARDOUS WASTE MANAGEMENT
Interim Status Standards for TSD Facilities
Utah HAZARDOUS WASTE MANAGEMENT

Proposed rule of the Department of Environmental Quality, Division of Waste Management and Radiation Control, amends regulations under R315-261-1 regarding interim status standards for owners and operators of hazardous waste treatment, storage, and disposal (TSD) facilities. The rule incorporates by reference Nov. 28, 2016, amendments to the federal Hazardous Waste Generator Improvements Rule under 40 CFR 265. Comments are due July 3, 2017. Contact: Rusty Lundberg; DEQ, Division of Waste Management and Radiation Control; 801-536-4257; rlundberg@utah.gov

—Utah State Bulletin (06/01/2017)

Regulatory Update

HAZARDOUS WASTE MANAGEMENT
Land Disposal Restrictions
Utah HAZARDOUS WASTE MANAGEMENT

Proposed rule of the Department of Environmental Quality, Division of Waste Management and Radiation Control, amends regulations under R315-268 regarding land disposal restrictions to align Nov. 28, 2016, amendments to the federal Hazardous Waste Generator Improvements Rule under 40 CFR 268. The rule revises generator requirements and changes the title of the lowest category of hazardous waste generation from "conditionally exempt small quantity generator" to "very small quantity generator." The rule also addresses storage of hazardous waste restricted from land disposal and adds hazardous waste container labeling requirements. Comments are

due July 3, 2017. Contact: Rusty Lundberg; DEQ, Division of Waste Management and Radiation Control; 801-536-4257; rlundberg@utah.gov

—Utah State Bulletin (06/01/2017)

Regulatory Update

HAZARDOUS WASTE MANAGEMENT
Management of Specific Hazardous Wastes/Spent Lead-Acid Batteries
Utah HAZARDOUS WASTE MANAGEMENT

Proposed rule of the Department of Environmental Quality, Division of Waste Management and Radiation Control, amends regulations under R315-266-80 regarding applicability and requirements for spent lead-acid batteries being reclaimed. The rule aligns requirements with Nov. 28, 2016, amendments to the federal Hazardous Waste Generator Improvements Rule under 40 CFR 266.80 regarding spent lead-acid batteries being reclaimed. Comments are due July 3, 2017. Contact: Rusty Lundberg; DEQ, Division of Waste Management and Radiation Control; 801-536-4257; rlundberg@utah.gov

—Utah State Bulletin (06/01/2017)

Regulatory Update

HAZARDOUS WASTE MANAGEMENT
Solid Waste Authority, Definitions, General Requirements
Utah HAZARDOUS WASTE MANAGEMENT

Proposed rule of the Department of Environmental Quality, Division of Waste Management and Radiation Control, amends regulations under R315-301-2 regarding industrial solid waste landfill requirements. The rule aligns hazardous waste requirements with Nov. 28, 2016, amendments to the federal Hazardous Waste Generator Improvements Rule under 40 CFR 258. The rule revises generator requirements and changes the title of the lowest category of hazardous waste generation from "conditionally exempt small quantity generator" to "very small quantity generator." Comments are due July 3, 2017. Contact: Rusty Lundberg; DEQ, Division of Waste Management and Radiation Control; 801-536-4257; rlundberg@utah.gov

—Utah State Bulletin (06/01/2017)

Regulatory Update

HAZARDOUS WASTE MANAGEMENT
Standards for Universal Waste Management
Utah HAZARDOUS WASTE MANAGEMENT

Proposed rule of the Department of Environmental Quality, Division of Waste Management and Radiation Control, amends regulations under R315-273 regarding standards for universal waste management to align with Nov. 28, 2016, amendments to the federal Hazardous Waste Generator Improvements Rule under 40 CFR 273. The rule revises generator requirements and changes the title of the lowest category of hazardous waste generation from "conditionally exempt small quantity generator" to "very small quantity generator." Comments are due July 3, 2017. Contact: Rusty Lundberg; DEQ, Division of Waste Management and Radiation Control; 801-536-4257;

rlundberg@utah.gov

—Utah State Bulletin (06/01/2017)

Regulatory Update

HAZARDOUS WASTE MANAGEMENT
Standards for the Management of Used Oil
Utah HAZARDOUS WASTE MANAGEMENT

Proposed rule of the Department of Environmental Quality, Division of Waste Management and Radiation Control, amends regulations under R315-15-1, -10, -12, -13, and -17 regarding standards for the management of used oil to align with Nov. 28, 2016, amendments to the federal Hazardous Waste Generator Improvements Rule under 40 CFR 279. The rule clarifies requirements for sudden accidental and nonsudden accidental releases and changes the title of the lowest category of hazardous waste generation from "conditionally exempt small quantity generator" to "very small quantity generator." The rule also adds mixed mode transit systems to the list of North American Industry Classification System codes to allow qualifying transit systems to transport their own used oil to a permitted used oil recycler. Comments are due July 3, 2017. Contact: Rusty Lundberg; DEQ, Division of Waste Management and Radiation Control; 801-536-4257; rlundberg@utah.gov

—Utah State Bulletin (06/01/2017)

Regulatory Update

HAZARDOUS WASTE MANAGEMENT
Transfer Facility Requirements
Utah HAZARDOUS WASTE MANAGEMENT

Proposed rule of the Department of Environmental Quality, Division of Waste Management and Radiation Control, amends regulations under R315-263-12 regarding hazardous waste transporters and other hazardous waste handlers to align requirements with Nov. 28, 2016, amendments to the federal Hazardous Waste Generator Improvements Rule under 40 CFR 263. The rule provides that transporters storing manifested shipments of hazardous waste that meet applicable packaging requirements for 10 days or less are not subject to hazardous waste storage requirements. The rule also requires transporters, when combining and consolidating compatible hazardous wastes in containers of 119 gallons or fewer, to mark containers as hazardous waste. Comments are due July 3, 2017. Contact: Rusty Lundberg; DEQ, Division of Waste Management and Radiation Control; 801-536-4257; rlundberg@utah.gov

—Utah State Bulletin (06/01/2017)

Regulatory Update

OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH
Lead-Based Paint Activities/Training Program Accreditation
Utah OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH

Final rule of the Department of Environmental Quality, Division of Air Quality, amends regulations under R307-842-1, -2, and -3 regarding lead-based paint (LBP) activities to be consistent with

federal requirements. The rule allows electronic training as an option for the LBP renovator certification course, specifies that courses must be accredited by the department director, and clarifies that accreditation requirements are for initial training courses. The rule also addresses course certification expiration dates and notification requirements. The rule is effective May 9, 2017. Contact: Ryan Stephens; DEQ, Division of Air Quality; 801-536-4419; rstephens@utah.gov

—Utah State Bulletin (06/01/2017)

Regulatory Update

OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH
Residential Property and Child-Occupied Facility Renovation/Lead-Based Paint
Utah OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH

Final rule of the Department of Environmental Quality, Division of Air Quality, amends regulations under R307-841-1, -7, and -8 regarding residential property and child-occupied facility renovation. The rule adopts amendments to federal standards under 40 CFR 745 concerning lead-based paint renovator certification courses. The rule also allows electronic training as an option for the course and addresses course certification expiration dates. The rule is effective May 9, 2017. Contact: Ryan Stephens; DEQ, Division of Air Quality; 801-536-4419; rstephens@utah.gov

—Utah State Bulletin (06/01/2017)

Regulatory Update

OIL AND GAS INDUSTRY
Drilling and Operation of Wells/Owners Refusal to Agree to Share Costs
Utah OIL AND GAS INDUSTRY

Emergency rule of the Department of Natural Resources, Division of Oil, Gas and Mining, amends regulations under R649-2-9 regarding the manner in which owners must consent to the drilling and operation of wells. The rule provides that owners are determined to have refused to agree to bear a proportionate share of the costs of the drilling, testing, completion, and equipping of a well if consent to leasing terms is not given in writing within 30 days of receipt of written notice. The rule is effective May 9, 2017, and expires Sept. 6, 2017. Contact: James Owen; DNR, Division of Oil, Gas and Mining; 801-538-5328; jcowen@utah.gov

—Utah State Bulletin (06/01/2017)

Regulatory Update

WATER
Water Rights/Administrative Procedures
Utah WATER

Proposed rule of the Department of Natural Resources, Division of Water Rights, repeals regulations under R655-2-1 through -11 to delete outdated provisions concerning administrative proceedings before the division commenced prior to Jan. 1, 1988. Comments are due July 3, 2017. Contact: Marianne Burbidge; DNR, Division of Water Rights; 801-538-7370; marianneburbidge@utah.gov

—Utah State Bulletin (06/01/2017)

Regulatory Update

Washington

AIR
Southwest Clean Air Agency/Aerosol Coatings, Automobile Refinish Coatings
Washington AIR

Final rule of the Southwest Clean Air Agency amends regulations under SWCAA 493-200 and -400 regarding aerosol coatings and automobile refinish coatings. The rule removes variance fees and adds a reference to the consolidated fee schedule under SWCAA 400-098 to allow the agency to revise fees by direct board action instead of rulemaking. The rule is effective June 18, 2017. Contact: Wess Safford; SWCAA; 360-574-3058; wess@swcleanair.org

—Washington State Register (06/07/2017)

Regulatory Update

AIR
Southwest Clean Air Agency/Gasoline Vapors Sources
Washington AIR

Final rule of the Southwest Clean Air Agency amends regulations under SWCAA 491-030 regarding emission standards and controls for sources emitting gasoline vapors. The rule removes specific fees and adds a reference to the consolidated fee schedule under SWCAA 400-098 to allow the agency to revise fees by direct board action instead of rulemaking. The rule is effective June 18, 2017. Contact: Wess Safford; SWCAA; 360-574-3058; wess@swcleanair.org

—Washington State Register (06/07/2017)

Regulatory Update

AIR
Southwest Clean Air Agency/Outdoor Burning Permits
Washington AIR

Final rule of the Southwest Clean Air Agency amends regulations under SWCAA 425-060 regarding outdoor burning. The rule removes specific fees and adds a reference to the consolidated fee schedule under SWCAA 400-098 to allow the agency to revise fees by direct board action instead of rulemaking. The rule is effective June 18, 2017. Contact: Wess Safford; SWCAA; 360-574-3058; wess@swcleanair.org

—Washington State Register (06/07/2017)

Regulatory Update

GENERAL ENVIRONMENT AND SAFETY
Southwest Clean Air Agency/Air Pollution Sources
Washington GENERAL ENVIRONMENT AND SAFETY

Final rule of the Southwest Clean Air Agency amends regulations under SWCAA 400-036 through · 109 (nonconsecutive) regarding air pollution sources. The rule removes specific fees and adds a reference to the consolidated fee schedule under SWCAA 400-098 to allow the agency to revise fees by direct board action instead of rulemaking. The rule is effective June 18, 2017. Contact: Wess Safford; SWCAA; 360-574-3058; wess@swcleanair.org

—Washington State Register (06/07/2017)

Regulatory Update

GENERAL ENVIRONMENT AND SAFETY
Southwest Clean Air Agency/Asbestos Standards
Washington GENERAL ENVIRONMENT AND SAFETY

Final rule of the Southwest Clean Air Agency amends regulations under SWCAA 476-050 regarding standards for asbestos control, demolition and renovation. The rule removes specific fees and adds a reference to the consolidated fee schedule under SWCAA 400-098 to allow the agency to revise fees by direct board action instead of rulemaking. The rule is effective June 19, 2017. Contact: Wess Safford; SWCAA; 360-574-3058; wess@swcleanair.org

—Washington State Register (06/07/2017)

Regulatory Update

GENERAL ENVIRONMENT AND SAFETY
Southwest Clean Air Agency/Oxygenated Fuels
Washington GENERAL ENVIRONMENT AND SAFETY

Final rule of the Southwest Clean Air Agency amends regulations under SWCAA 492-050 regarding registration requirements for blenders of oxygenated gasoline. The rule removes the registration fee and adds a reference to the consolidated fee schedule under SWCAA 400-098 to allow the agency to revise the fee by direct board action instead of rulemaking. The rule is effective June 18, 2017. Contact: Wess Safford; SWCAA; 360-574-3058; wess@swcleanair.org

—Washington State Register (06/07/2017)

Regulatory Update

GENERAL ENVIRONMENT AND SAFETY
Southwest Clean Air Agency/Threshold Determinations, Environmental Impact Statements
Washington GENERAL ENVIRONMENT AND SAFETY

Final rule of the Southwest Clean Air Agency amends regulations under SWCAA 802-130 regarding requirements for recovering the cost of performing environmental threshold determinations in preparing or reviewing an environmental checklist. The rule removes specific fees and adds a reference to the consolidated fee schedule under SWCAA 400-098. The rule is

effective June 18, 2017. Contact: Paul Mairose; SWCAA; 360-574-3058; Paul@swcleanair.org

—Washington State Register (06/07/2017)

Regulatory Update

HAZARDOUS WASTE MANAGEMENT
Coordinated Prevention, Local Solid Waste Enforcement Grants
Washington HAZARDOUS WASTE MANAGEMENT

Proposed rule of the Department of Ecology amends regulations under WAC 173-312-010 through 100 and repeals regulations under WAC 173-313-010 through -050 to consolidate provisions concerning grants available to local governments for hazardous and solid waste plans and programs. The rule deletes provisions concerning local solid waste enforcement grants and removes eligibility for separate hazardous and solid waste management plan development funds. The rule also addresses requirements for notification of available funding, revises project criteria, aligns the grant cycle with the fiscal year, and provides for a web-based grants management program. In addition, the rule establishes a 10 percent penalty for recipients who fail to meet performance criteria. A hearing is scheduled for June 27, 2017, in Lacey, and via webinar. Comments are due July 7, 2017. Contact: Tami Ramsey; Department of Ecology, Waste 2 Resources Program; 360-407-6612

—Washington State Register (06/07/2017)

Regulatory Update

OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH
Occupational Safety and Health/Administrative Changes
Washington OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH

Proposed rule of the Department of Labor and Industries amend regulations under WAC 296-65-003 through -900-17505 (nonconsecutive), adopts regulations under WAC 296-803-099 through -900-099 (nonconsecutive), and repeals regulations under WAC 296-900-180 and -17510 to make numerous changes to the formatting and organization of all Division of Occupational Safety and Health rules. A hearing is scheduled for July 7, 2017, in Tumwater. Comments are due July 14, 2017. Contact: Chris Miller; DLI; 360-902-5090

—Washington State Register (06/07/2017)

Regulatory Update

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EHS State Regulatory Alert

To: Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
From: Morning Energy
Sent: Wed 5/31/2017 2:04:54 PM
Subject: POLITICO's Morning Energy: Trump plans Paris pullout — Former Trump official heads new carbon tax push — Fossil giants face shareholder climate challenges

By Anthony Adragna | 05/31/2017 10:00 AM EDT

With help from Mary Lee, Esther Whieldon and Alex Guillén

BREAKING - TRUMP PLANS PARIS PULLOUT: A White House source says President Donald Trump intends to pull the U.S. out of the landmark 2015 Paris agreement on climate change, POLITICO's Andrew Restuccia reports . It would be a dramatic and provocative move from the world's second largest emitter and would go against the wishes of some of the country's largest businesses, states, environmental and public health groups, and many senior Republicans in the president's own party. It's sure to have dramatic impacts on U.S. diplomacy, though the move will be cheered by conservatives who pushed Trump to follow through on his campaign pledge to "cancel" the agreement, arguing it would harm U.S. competitiveness and job creation.

But Trump wasn't so definitive, tweeting this morning, "I will be announcing my decision on the Paris Accord over the next few days. MAKE AMERICA GREAT AGAIN."

There are still several options for how the U.S. can leave the Paris agreement. Trump could kick off a lengthy, three-year exit process, preventing a U.S. exit from formally taking effect until at least Nov. 4, 2020 or he could take the immediate step of withdrawing the U.S. from the 1992 United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the treaty that undergirds the entire regime of international climate negotiations. Axios first reported Trump's decision this morning.

Put to rest the narrative that Trump's daughter Ivanka and son-in-law Jared Kushner, who pushed to have the U.S. stick with agreement, are effective moderating forces on his most brash instincts. Pulling out of Paris is a huge win nationalist wing of Trump's White House, including chief strategist Steve Bannon and Environmental Protection Agency leader Scott Pruitt.

U.N. chief: Forge ahead if U.S. leaves: United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres urged Trump to stick with the climate agreement but said the rest of the world must continue its implementation even if the planet's second-largest greenhouse gas emitter leaves. "The message is simple: The sustainability train has left the station. Get on board or get left behind," Guterres said, adding he would hold a 2019 meeting to look at the deal's implementation. "Climate action is gathering momentum not just because it is a necessity but also because it presents an opportunity - to forge a peaceful and sustainable future on a healthy planet," he said.

The White House is trying to sell Trump's approach on issues like Paris - which has aggravated close European allies - as an attempt to strengthen close relationships further by holding frank conversations, POLITICO's Nahal Toosi reports. And there are signs European officials are already preparing for what it considers a worst-case climate scenario, looking increasingly to Canada and China as partners on the issue.

Last-minute push: Citizens for Responsible Energy Solutions Forum released a TV ad today urging Trump to stick with the Paris agreement but renegotiate a "better deal" for the U.S. It cites the support of ten major CEOs, including JP Morgan's Jamie Dimon, Disney's Bob Iger, GE's Jeffrey Immelt and CitiGroup's Michael Corbat.

EYEBROWS UP: EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt will no longer be traveling to the 2017 Kentucky Association of Manufacturers Conference & Trade Show today as originally planned, a spokeswoman for the conference tells ME. That comes on the heels of his highly-publicized meeting with Trump Tuesday on the future of the Paris accord.

WELCOME TO WEDNESDAY! I'm your host Anthony Adragna, and Optony's Jonathan Whelan was first to pick out "Pork Barrel John" Langley as the congressman who resigned for illegally selling alcohol during Prohibition. For today: How many non-voting members are there in the House? Send your tips, energy gossip and comments to aadragna@politico.com, or follow us on Twitter @AnthonyAdragna, @Morning_Energy, and @POLITICOPro.

SCOOP - FORMER TRUMP 'SHERPA' LEADS NEW CARBON TAX COALITION: A former member of Trump's transition team is pushing a carbon tax as a conservative solution to climate change. The Alliance for Market Solutions launched today with the goal of reshaping how Republicans approach the issue, says Alex Flint, the group's new executive director. Flint previously served as a "Sherpa " to help smooth the confirmation of Trump's Interior Department nominee, and before that he was senior vice president of governmental affairs at Nuclear Energy Institute. The mission of the Alliance for Market Solutions is "to see carbon regulations repealed, a carbon tax implemented that offsets other taxes ... and policies that appeal to the next generation of Republican voters - that's our goal," he told ME. The new alliance - armed with an Ernst & Young study written by Robert J. Carroll and his associates - says a revenue-neutral carbon tax would boost the economy. The E&Y study finds the tax - when using its revenues to finance a reduction in the corporate income tax rate - could increase GDP in the long-run by as much as 2.1 percent. The group also released a policy anthology.

The players: The board of directors includes Chairman Jeffrey Williams, former investment banker at Morgan Stanley. And advisers include former FERC Commissioner Vicky Bailey, Former Florida Sen. Mel Martinez and John Rowe, chairman emeritus of Exelon.

GOVS CAUTION ZINKE ON SAGE GROUSE PLANS: A bipartisan pair of governors are warning Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke about some major changes he is considering to managing sage grouse populations in the West. Govs. Matthew Mead (R-Wyo.) and John Hickenlooper (D-Colo.) said they are "concerned" that replacing the Obama administration's approach, which was based on protecting habitat, with one based on hitting population targets for the birds "is not the right decision." When Zinke previewed some of his sage grouse plans in March, he said he was confident states would be able to hit a population target. The governors also cautioned against major changes to BLM land-use plans that were amended to address sage grouse. "Wholesale changes to the land use plans are likely not necessary at this time," wrote the governors, who co-chair the state-led Sage Grouse Task Force, in a Friday letter obtained by ME. Mead and Hickenlooper urged Zinke to work with them before making any changes.

Zinke could issue a secretarial order on sage grouse management as early as this week, directing BLM to review existing plans to identify burdens they place on resource development, among other steps, a source tracking the process tells ME. Interior spokeswoman Heather Swift in a text message said that was "not accurate" but declined to elaborate further.

CLIMATE SHOWDOWN TODAY IN TEXAS: Shareholders descend on Texas today for the annual meetings of Exxon Mobil and Chevron, and activist investors intend to force votes on a host of climate change-related proposals. Perhaps the most-watched resolution would force Exxon to publish annual reports examining how its business would be affected by global efforts to address climate change, including the scenario limiting temperature increases to 2 degrees Celsius. A similar resolution received backing from more than 38 percent of Exxon shareholders last year - at the time a record - but it's thought to be close to securing majority support despite opposition from the company itself, which argues it already releases sufficient information in that area. Another proposal, from As You Sow, calls for the company to publish an annual report on "actions beyond regulatory requirements" to minimize methane emissions, especially leakage, from its operations. It's the first meeting since Darren Woods took over as Exxon CEO from now-Secretary of State Rex Tillerson. A full list of items under consideration is available here.

While most attention (and protests) are being directed Exxon, Chevron is expected to have its own climate confrontations at its annual meeting today. Investors opted to withdraw a climate "stress test" resolution similar to the one Exxon faces earlier this month, but are expected to vote on another calling for a report on "the feasibility of altering the company's energy mix by separating or selling off its highest carbon-risk assets." A full itinerary for their meeting is available here.

The votes are part of a broader trend of fossil fuel companies facing increased pressure over whether they are prepared to deal with climate change. Earlier in May, 67 percent of investors in Occidental Petroleum backed a resolution calling for the company to annually analyze and disclose its risks associated with climate change, a first for a U.S. oil and gas company. That move came despite the company's board opposing the measure.

TRUMP EPA 'MAY' SOON TAKE ACTION ON CLEAN POWER PLAN: EPA played coy Tuesday in a court filing about its ongoing review of the Clean Power Plan, saying in the brief status report to the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals that it "may" soon propose something. "EPA continues to review the Rule, as required under the Executive Order, and may be prepared to begin the interagency review process of a resulting proposed regulatory action in the near future," the filing said. "We will update the Court as EPA takes further steps." The D.C. Circuit's 60-day hold is up in about a month, and the court is currently weighing whether to extend that hold indefinitely or simply send the CPP back to EPA. In a separate filing, EPA said basically the same thing about its review of the 111(b) rule for future power plants, which unlike the CPP remains in effect.

INTERIOR OFFICIAL KEPT AGRICULTURE STOCKS: Aurelia Skipwith, Zinke's hire for deputy assistant secretary for fish, wildlife and parks, has kept between $50,001 and $100,000 in stocks in the agricultural consulting firm she founded, AVC Global, according to a public financial disclosure report obtained by ME. She also has between $1,001 and $15,000 in

stocks with agriculture company Monsanto.

ZINKE'S ALASKA TOUR ROLLS ON: Zinke is in Anchorage, Alaska again today where he'll deliver remarks at the Alaska Oil and Gas Association annual conference at the Dena'ina Convention Center around 12:15 p.m. He'll then tour the Arctic Valley Nike Site Summit, a Cold War-era missile site.

In conjunction with his trip, the Wilderness Society is releasing a short, two-page chapter of a broader forthcoming report highlighting what it says are the unacceptable risks posed by drilling in the Arctic Refuge.

CLIMATE HAWK McCAIN REEMERGES? Sen. John McCain delivered his strongest comments on climate change in years during an appearance Tuesday in Australia, urging Trump to stick with the Paris agreement. "I would like to see us ... either accept the agreements as were made by the Obama administration or suggest modifications which would make it palatable for us and acceptable to us to join," McCain said, according to The Guardian . "If we don't address this issue, I am very much afraid about what the world is going to look like for our children and grandchildren." The former presidential candidate added that "one of the great tragedies of our lives is the Great Barrier Reef dying [and] the environmental consequences of that."

MAIL CALL! REPS: TREAD CAREFULLY WITH NAFTA RENEGOTIATION: Nearly 60 House members are urging U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer to be aware of potentially disruptive energy sector impacts while renegotiating NAFTA. "We ask that you consider the importance of maintaining and where feasible upgrading, policies regarding the free flow of raw and refined products from oil and natural gas, the absence of tariffs on energy products, protections for U.S. intellectual property, as well as access to Canadian and Mexican markets," the lawmakers, led by Tom Reed (R-N.Y.) and Terri Sewell (D-Ala.), wrote in a letter Tuesday. ME notes it's pretty darn unusual to have Bobby Rush (D-Ill.) and Louie Gohmert (R-Texas) on the same letter.

HERE'S AN IDEA: Rep. Tom Graves (R-Ga.) proposed throwing all the appropriations bills together this year and passing the massive omnibus before August recess during a closed-door GOP meeting last week, Pro's Budget & Appropriations Brief's Sarah Ferris and Jennifer Scholtes report. "It's a Herculean task," Graves said, adding that fellow appropriators have promised to work weekends. But a reality check: House lawmakers haven't passed all 12 bills on time in more than a decade - let alone a month early.

HOUSE ENERGY COALITION OUTLINES TAX REFORM WISH LIST: The 50-Democrat House Sustainable Energy and Environment Coalition, in a recent letter , urged House Ways and Means leadership to curb tax breaks for the oil and gas industry but extend or expand a myriad of clean energy tax incentives as part of the committee's overall tax reform efforts. In addition to wanting a carbon tax, the coalition asks for extended tax credits for a number of small technologies left out of a 2015 deal, expansion of the investment tax credit to include stand-alone energy storage and an exception for offshore wind to the planned phase out of the ITC.

MOVERS, SHAKERS: Jenner & Block has formed an energy practice with the addition of

three former top FERC officials. Suedeen Kelly, a former commissioner, will co-chair the practice as a partner along with Randy Mehrberg. Max J. Minzner, former general counsel with the agency, also joins as partner. And Jeffery S. Dennis, former director of FERC Division of Policy Development, joins as special counsel.

Steve Wackowski has been named as Zinke's senior advisor for Alaska affairs. Wackowski managed Sen. Lisa Murkowski's latest reelection campaign, was press secretary for Sen. Ted Stevens and has experience tracking and mapping polar bear den locations for oil and gas companies on Alaska's North Slope. Wackowski is a Major in the Air Force Reserve and his new position will be based in Anchorage.

Jeff Kerridge has been appointed senior vice president of business development for AECOM within its nuclear and environment division; he has 31 years of experience within the nuclear energy industry, including stints with the Department of Energy and the United Kingdom's Ministry of Defense.

Frank Benenati is starting a new job in Chicago at United Airlines as director of corporate communications. He previously served as the director of public affairs for the EPA and also was as a White House spokesperson and assistant press secretary (h/t Playbook).

INSANE VIDEO: CBS News posted crazy video of an underground water main exploding in Kiev, Ukraine. Watch it here.

HAPPENING TODAY

3:30 p.m. - NAFTA Conversation with Secretary Wilbur Ross and Jack Gerard, Bipartisan Policy Center, 1225 Eye Street NW, Suite 1000

5:30 p.m. - Women's Council on Energy and the Environment May Happy Hour, Penn Commons, 700 6th Street, NW

THAT'S ALL FOR ME!

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http://www.politico.com/tipsheets/morning-energy/2017/05/31/few-clear-options-as-trumps-paris-decision-looms-220591

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Subject: July 03 -- Energy and Climate Report



Energy and Climate Report

July 03, 2017 - Number 127

News

Air Pollution

Court Rebukes EPA for Shelving Obama-Era Methane Regulation

A federal appeals court rebuked the EPA for unilaterally suspending Obama-era methane emissions regulations, criticizing the "flimsiness" of its arguments and bringing the regulations back into effect.

Climate Change

Louisiana Town Convulsed by Relocation as Climate Policy Shifts

There was a fight coming and everyone knew it, so the reverend asked his guests to start with a prayer.

Climate Policy

Obama in Indonesia Takes Swipe at Trump on Paris Climate Accord

Former U.S. President Barack Obama has pointed to the importance of the Paris climate accord while criticizing Donald Trump for pulling the world's biggest economy out of the pact.

Climate Science

Scientists Skeptical of Pruitt's Call for Climate Debate

Climate change scientists see little upside to engaging in EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt's interest in additional debate on the merits of their research, fearing it will only validate the agency's plans to roll back regulations.

Shareholder Activism

Jana Partners Takes EQT Stake, Seeks to Halt Rice Deal

Sometimes-activist investor Jana Partners disclosed a 5.8 percent stake in EQT Corp. as the fund seeks to scuttle the natural gas driller's deal to buy Rice Energy Inc. for $6.7 billion.

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Energy and Climate Report

To: Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
From: Morning Score
Sent: Tue 5/30/2017 2:05:36 PM
Subject: POLITICO's Morning Score: Early voting sites open for Georgia special election — New ad from House Majority PAC — Pence plans campaign push to help GOP — Q&A with Evan Jenkins

By Elena Schneider | 05/30/2017 10:00 AM EDT

With Scott Bland

The following newsletter is an abridged version of Campaign Pro's Morning Score. For an earlier morning read on exponentially more races - and for a more comprehensive aggregation of the day's most important campaign news - sign up for Campaign Pro today. (http://www.politicopro.com/proinfo)

BALLOT CHASE - In-person early voting kicks off in Georgia House special: Election Day in the GA-06 special election is three weeks from today, which means in-person early voting sites are opening Tuesday morning across the suburban Atlanta district. Interest in the race is incredibly intense and both parties are making a major push to bank votes for Republican Karen Handel and Democrat Jon Ossoff - over 7,200 people already cast absentee ballots by the end of last week, according to Georgia's voter file. By contrast, fewer than 2,000 people voted by the end of the first day of in-person early voting before the April 18 primary.

- 1,193 of those absentee voters did not vote in the primary, yet have already banked their votes for the two campaigns . Of that group, 339 voted in the GOP primary during the 2016 presidential race, versus 105 who pulled Democratic presidential primary ballots on March 1, 2016. Turnout in round 1 was already near midterm levels - about 193,000 on April 18 compared to 210,000 in November 2014. But both parties are seeking to expand the electorate further in ways that will help them. While Democrats are focusing on thousands of newly registered voters, Republicans have a bigger pool of friendly-looking occasional voters to mine. The Republican analytics firm Optimus Consulting found there were 35,000 voters who cast Republican ballots in the March 2016 presidential primaries but didn't vote on April 18, versus about 11,000 Democratic primary voters. Indeed, the NRCC has been urging groups involved in GA-06 to target "38,000 high propensity Republicans [who] did not vote on April 18 but are able to vote in June."

- These relatively small numbers could ultimately make the difference in a tight race. Remember: Ossoff fell 3,612 votes short of winning the seat with a majority in the primary.

- ICYMI - "Ossoff raised $6.9M online in April." Full story.

- NEW THIS A.M. - Democratic super PAC ad hits Handel on government spending: House Majority PAC and Patriot Majority have partnered on a new TV ad in the special election, backed by a half-million dollars on Atlanta broadcast TV. The ad opens by noting that Handel has run "six campaigns for five different offices," before the narrator says: "But politician Karen Handel never changes, always taking taxpayers for a ride." The ad notes spending by Handel's office as secretary of state on items like a Lexus SUV and "taxpayer-funded air travel," themes

in other Democratic ads in GA-06, too. **See the ad here.**

MEET THE CANDIDATE - "POLITICO Pro Q&A: Rep. Evan Jenkins," by Campaign Pro's Daniel Strauss: "GOP Rep. Evan Jenkins is vying to defeat Democratic Sen. Joe Manchin in West Virginia in 2018. And to do it, he is framing the race as a proxy battle against Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer and Sen. Elizabeth Warren. ... Jenkins discussed his case against Manchin, the possibility of a primary, and more in an interview with POLITICO. The transcript has been lightly edited for length and clarity. ... **Manchin has a primary challenger and there are a lot of Democrats who say Manchin is not really a Democrat. What exactly are your problems with his voting record?** I think reporters' analysis is that Manchin has a 84, 85 percent voting record with Harry Reid. He has a 76, 77 percent voting record with Elizabeth Warren. I'm certainly not Joe Manchin's political consultant, but Joe Manchin will say one thing and will do another in his voting behavior in Washington." **Full story.**

Days until the 2017 election: 161.

Days until the 2018 election: 525.

Thanks for joining us.You can email tips to the Campaign Pro team at sbland@politico.com, eschneider@politico.com, krobillard@politico.com and dstrauss@politico.com.

You can also follow us on Twitter: @politicoscott, @ec_schneider, @politicokevin and @danielstrauss4.

HELP FROM MIKE - "Pence to make campaign push amid GOP concerns over Trump," by POLITICO's Alex Isenstadt: "Vice President Mike Pence is embarking on a cross-country summer campaign tour amid rising fears that the GOP, reeling from a barrage of Trump-fueled controversies, is headed for a midterm election disaster. Pence is mapping out a schedule that will take him through several Midwestern battlegrounds and to traditionally conservative southern states like Georgia, where an unexpectedly competitive June special election runoff is alarming party strategists. The vice president will also attend a series of Republican Party events that will draw major donors and power-brokers, where talk about 2018 is certain to be front-and-center. The push comes at a time of growing consternation among senior Republicans who say the White House has given them little direction on midterm planning. ... the early intensity of Pence's tour underscores the sudden urgency confronting Republicans. With Trump's campaign under federal investigation, his approval ratings at record lows, and his agenda badly stalled, once-despondent Democrats have been jolted back to life - and are waging a serious bid to seize control of the House. Some Republicans view Pence's activity as an effort to calm the waters." **Full story.**

... AND HELP FROM JOE - "Biden backs Phil Murphy, says N.J. governor's race 'most important' in nation," by POLITICO New Jersey's Ryan Hutchins: "Former Vice President Joe Biden blessed the campaign of New Jersey gubernatorial candidate Phil Murphy on Sunday, describing the upcoming election to succeed outgoing Gov. Chris Christie as the 'single most important' of the next three years - even eclipsing the 2018 midterms. In what was largely a repudiation of President Donald Trump, Biden said Democrats haven't done enough to

acknowledge the problems faced by many in middle-class America and said he viewed Murphy - a former Goldman Sachs executive who served as U.S. ambassador to Germany during the Obama administration - as the man to do so." Full story.

SIGN OF THE TIMES - "How Trump is already shaking up the Georgia governor's race," by The Atlanta Journal Constitution's Greg Bluestein: "...A fight is already under way on the GOP side of the ticket between candidates pledging to 'drain the swamp' vying against more mainstream Republicans with long records of experience in public office who aren't tying themselves directly to Trump's presidency. The battle lines have already being drawn: Lt. Gov. Casey Cagle didn't mention Trump at his campaign kickoff, while Secretary of State Brian Kemp's official announcement practically oozed Trump-ian themes. ... A pair of Democratic rising stars - state Reps. Stacey Abrams and Stacey Evans - both figure to put their opposition to Trump at the center of their bids." Full story.

DEBATE NIGHT - "Pragmatism vs. populism at cordial final debate in Va. Democratic gubernatorial race," by The Washington Post's Fenit Nirappil: "The two Virginia Democrats locked in a tight race for their party's gubernatorial nomination were cordial in their final debate but offered competing visions for a swing state where Republicans control the legislature. In a 30-minute debate televised Sunday, Lt. Gov. Ralph Northam touted his experience and relationships in Richmond, saying they make him the ideal choice to shepherd through pragmatic policies to help working families. Former congressman Tom Perriello urged a more dramatic approach, saying the state's next leader needs to champion an expansive progressive platform, complete with new social programs funded by tax increases on the wealthiest, even if it faces opposition from Republican lawmakers." Full story.

YEP, THAT'S A LOT - "22 candidates crowd into race to replace Chaffetz - so far," by The Deseret News' Lisa Riley Roche: "Candidates crowded into the race to replace Rep. Jason Chaffetz, R-Utah, with 15 Republicans, four Democrats, two Independent American Party members and one Libertarian signing up to run by Friday's 5 p.m. filing deadline. ...There could end up being even more names on the ballot for voters to choose from because unaffiliated candidates - those not running as a member of a political party - have until June 12 to file with the state Elections Office." Full story.

OPERATIVE TURNED CANDIDATE - Democratic strategist Buffy Wicks has formed a campaign committee to run for state Assembly in California next year. Wicks was Hillary Clinton's California state director during the 2016 presidential primaries and previously held senior roles in the Obama White House, his two presidential campaigns, and Priorities USA Action.

CHOOSING PRIORITIES - Priorities poll finds Russia hurting Trump, not GOP Congress: "A new polling memo from a leading Democratic super PAC argues that the ongoing investigation into Russian meddling in American politics is dragging down President Donald Trump's approval numbers, but health care is having a greater impact on the popularity of the Republican-controlled Congress. Full story.

ADMINISTRATION SPEED READ - "Investigation Turns to Kushner's Motives in

Meeting With a Putin Ally," by The New York Times' Matthew Rosenberg, Mark Mazzetti and Maggie Haberman: "Jared Kushner, the president's son-in-law and senior adviser, was looking for a direct line to President Vladimir V. Putin of Russia - a search that in mid-December found him in a room with a Russian banker whose financial institution was deeply intertwined with Russian intelligence, and remains under sanction by the United States. Federal and congressional investigators are now examining what exactly Mr. Kushner and the Russian banker, Sergey N. Gorkov, wanted from each other. The banker is a close associate of Mr. Putin, but he has not been known to play a diplomatic role for the Russian leader. That has raised questions about why he was meeting with Mr. Kushner at a crucial moment in the presidential transition, according to current and former officials familiar with the investigations." **Full story.**

CODA - QUOTE OF THE DAY: "I guess we could be more concerned if she was the wife of the president. Hopefully, this is just her issue." - Patti Strand, president of the National Animal Interest Alliance, on Lara Trump, wife of Eric Trump, who hopes to champion beagle adoption, which is "a little problematic," POLITICO reported.

To view online:
http://www.politico.com/tipsheets/morning-score/2017/05/30/early-voting-sites-open-for-georgia-special-election-220554

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To: Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
From: Anna Palmer and Jake Sherman
Sent: Tue 6/6/2017 5:04:01 PM
Subject: Playbook Power Briefing, presented by Samsung: Washington's concerns before the July 4 recess -- TRUMP goes after Qatar -- Attacker shot in Paris -- Research on ESPN and politicization

View online version | Add politicoplaybook@politico.com to your address book.

Today's Playbook Power Briefing presented by Samsung
06/06/2017 01:00 PM EDT

By ANNA PALMER (anna@politico.com; @apalmerdc), JAKE SHERMAN (sherman@politico.com; @JakeSherman), DANIEL LIPPMAN (daniel@politico.com; @dlippman), ZACH MONTELLARO (zmontellaro@politico.com; @ZachMontellaro)

Good Tuesday afternoon. DON'T FORGET we have a special Playbook University with D.C. Mayor **Muriel Bowser.** We'll be at the In3 incubator by Howard University, and doors open at 5:30 p.m. Registration for the event is CLOSED, but you can stream it live (http://politi.co/2rQtgyN) starting at around 6 p.m.

HEY...BY THE WAY -- Where is that major White House shakeup many were predicting was imminent for the last four months? Mike Dubke left late last month. Katie Walsh left a few months ago. And Mike Flynn was fired in February. Beyond that, everything is pretty static.

THE CONVERSATION -- A NEW WASHINGTON REALITY -- PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP wanted this to be a week focused on infrastructure. In typical times, that would look something like this: the Hill would hold hearings on infrastructure, pass some small-bore bills dealing with rebuilding the nation's roads and modernizing airports. **INSTEAD:** Congress is wrestling over financial-services reform and health care. **AND THE PRESIDENT** is warring with the mayor of London, tweeting about the travel ban and popping off about his perception of how his tweets are received.

-- WHAT THE REST OF WASHINGTON IS CONCERNED ABOUT: There are **18 DAYS** until the July 4 recess, and **31 DAYS** until the five-week August recess. Senate Republicans are trying to cobble together a health-care bill this month, but GOP senators from across the ideological spectrum are doubtful they can get anything done. Congress needs to pass a fiscal-year 2018 budget in order to start on tax reform, and there is serious skepticism that a budget can pass. So, tax reform is on hold. Democrats are turning against infrastructure spending because the president tied it to an air-traffic control plan that they hate. **SO THERE'S A GOOD CHANCE** that Congress leaves for the August recess without repealing and replacing Obamacare, without passing an infrastructure package and without progress on tax reform.

OH YEAH... The government shuts down at the end of September -- Republicans are going to be thirsty for policy changes -- and the debt ceiling needs to be lifted this fall.

BREAKING IN PARIS -- "Officer attacked with hammer outside Notre Dame in Paris," by the AP's Angela Charlton: "An unidentified assailant attacked a police officer near Notre Dame Cathedral on Tuesday, and the officer then shot and wounded the attacker, Paris police said. A police union official, Cedric Michel, said a man armed with a hammer went after the police officer, who was patrolling the esplanade in front of the world-famous cathedral known for its gothic architecture and gargoyles. Michel said the attacker was 'neutralized' by police." http://apne.ws/2rQJtUu

WHITE HOUSE STATEMENTS -- @realDonaldTrump at 6:51 a.m.: "Big meeting today with Republican leadership concerning Tax Cuts and Healthcare. We are all pushing hard - must get it right!" ... **at 7:58 a.m.:** "The FAKE MSM is working so hard trying to get me not to use Social Media. They hate that I can get the honest and unfiltered message out." ... **at 8:06 a.m.:** "During my recent trip to the Middle East I stated that there can no longer be funding of Radical Ideology. Leaders pointed to Qatar - look!" ... **at 8:15 a.m.:** "Sorry folks, but if I would have relied on the Fake News of CNN, NBC, ABC, CBS, washpost or nytimes, I would have had ZERO chance winning WH" ... **at 9:36 a.m.:** "So good to see the Saudi Arabia visit with the King and 50 countries already paying off. They said they would take a hard line on funding..." ... **at 9:44 a.m.:** "...extremism, and all reference was pointing to Qatar. Perhaps this will be the beginning of the end to the horror of terrorism!"

-- QATAR is the home to the largest U.S. military installation in the Middle East.

BULLETIN at 12:11 p.m.**--** "GANZHOU, China (AP) - China rebuffs calls to release activists detained in investigation of Ivanka Trump supplier, seeks to silence families."

FROM THE PODIUM -- SEAN SPICER will brief the White House press at 2 p.m. State Department spokesperson Heather Nauert will have her first full on-camera briefing today at 2 p.m. as well.

****** **A message from Samsung:** Samsung has announced more than $10 Billion in US Growth since 2016, including our March 2017 acquisition of HARMAN International, a commitment of $1.2 Billion in U.S.-based IoT Investment and R&D, and a $1B expansion of our Austin, TX Semiconductor Manufacturing Facility. Visit Samsung.com/VisionForTomorrow for more. ******

MORE COMEY COVERAGE -- NBC: Lester Holt, Guthrie and Chuck Todd will co-anchor NBC News' coverage of former FBI Director James Comey's testimony on Thursday. **MSNBC** will have coverage on Morning Joe, followed by special coverage anchored by Brian Williams, who will be joined by Nicolle Wallace and other guests.

-- @costareports: "I'm told by two WH sources that Pres. Trump does not plan to put down Twitter on Thursday. May live tweet if he feels the need to respond."

STILL HAPPENING -- "Trump UK visit to go ahead despite criticism of London mayor: foreign minister," by Reuters: "British Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson said

on Tuesday he saw no reason to cancel Donald Trump's state visit to Britain after the U.S. president criticized Mayor Sadiq Khan's response to the London Bridge killings. ... 'The invitation has been issued and accepted and I see no reason to change that, but as far as what Sadiq Khan has said about the reassurances he's offered the people of London, I think he was entirely right to speak in the way he did,' Johnson said in a BBC radio interview when asked whether Trump's state visit should be canceled. No date has been set for the visit, which was agreed during Prime Minister Theresa May's visit to Washington in January." http://reut.rs/2sOOWJ2

NOT INTERESTED -- MICHAEL ISIKOFF in Yahoo, "Four top law firms turned down requests to represent Trump": "Top lawyers with at least four major law firms rebuffed White House overtures to represent President Trump in the Russia investigations, in part over concerns that the president would be unwilling to listen to their advice, according to five sources familiar with discussions about the matter. ...

"Among them, sources said, were some of the most high-profile names in the legal profession, including Brendan Sullivan of Williams & Connolly; Ted Olson of Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher; Paul Clement and Mark Filip of Kirkland & Ellis; and Robert Giuffra of Sullivan & Cromwell. The lawyers and their firms cited a variety of factors in choosing not to take on the president as a client. Some, like Brendan Sullivan, said they had upcoming trials or existing commitments that would make it impossible for them to devote the necessary time and resources to Trump's defense.

"Others mentioned potential conflicts with clients of their firms, such as financial institutions that have already received subpoenas relating to potential money-laundering issues that are part of the investigation. But a consistent theme, the sources said, was the concern about whether the president would accept the advice of his lawyers and refrain from public statements and tweets that have consistently undercut his position." https://yhoo.it/2sOyt7v

2018 WATCH -- "Priorities USA hires up ahead of 2018," by Gabe Debenedetti: "Priorities USA Action, which raised nearly $200 million supporting Hillary Clinton's presidential bid in 2016, is ramping up again with new hires and a new headquarters ahead of the 2018 election season. ... Josh Schwerin, a national spokesman for Clinton who previously worked at the DCCC and for Virginia Gov. Terry McAuliffe, will be the group's communications director. Priorities is also bringing on Tristan Wilkerson, who worked on national constituency outreach for Bernie Sanders, as a special adviser for voter protection and political outreach." http://politi.co/2rQzVcm

MEGA-TRENDS - "Drug Deaths in America Are Rising Faster Than Ever," by The Upshot's Josh Katz in Akron, Ohio: "Drug overdose deaths in 2016 most likely exceeded 59,000, the largest annual jump ever recorded in the United States, according to preliminary data compiled by The New York Times. The death count is the latest consequence of an escalating public health crisis: opioid addiction, now made more deadly by an influx of illicitly manufactured fentanyl and similar drugs. Drug overdoses are now the leading cause of death among Americans under 50. Although the data is

preliminary, the Times's best estimate is that deaths rose 19 percent over the 52,404 recorded in 2015. And all evidence suggests the problem has continued to worsen in 2017." http://nyti.ms/2syDhOW

FIRST IN PLAYBOOK -- Former DHS Secretary **Jeh Johnson,** now a partner at Paul, Weiss, was elected to the Board of Directors of the Pacific Gas & Electric Corporation. A director at that company makes between roughly $250,000 and $325,000 a year.

DATA DU JOUR -- "Exclusive Test Data: Many Colleges Fail to Improve Critical-Thinking Skills," by WSJ's Doug Belkin: "Freshmen and seniors at about 200 colleges across the U.S. take a little-known test every year to measure how much better they get at learning to think. The results are discouraging. At more than half of schools, at least a third of seniors were unable to make a cohesive argument, assess the quality of evidence in a document or interpret data in a table, The Wall Street Journal found after reviewing the latest results from dozens of public colleges and universities that gave the exam between 2013 and 2016. At some of the most prestigious flagship universities, test results indicate the average graduate shows little or no improvement in critical thinking over four years." http://on.wsj.com/2rOPd1g

TODAY'S BEYOND THE BELTWAY -- Jerry Brown talks climate in China -- Primary day in New Jersey http://politi.co/2rQwcLY

GLOBETROTTER -- "Former President Barack Obama Pays a Visit to Parents-to-Be George and Amal Clooney in the U.K.," by People's Phil Boucher and Lindsay Kimble http://bit.ly/2sOT3Vm ... ***The AP reported that twins Ella and Alexander Clooney were born this morning*** http://apne.ws/2sOPeQ1

HOT DOC -- "ESPN Research on bias and viewership," from ESPN's Vice President of Original Content & Brand Intelligence Barry Blyn: "Within our Research group, we have actively looked at the question of perceived political bias for more than two years now. We have studied it from all sides of the political spectrum and party affiliation to see how fans react or do not react to our coverage of the intersection of sports and social and political issues.

"Our most recent survey was conducted May 3-7 by Langer Research Associates of New York, a nationally recognized and award-winning research firm, the findings belie the notion of any impact on our business: Approximately two-thirds (64 percent) of respondents believe ESPN is getting it right in terms of mixing sports news and political issues. Another 10 percent had no opinion ... and 8 percent said ESPN does not do enough politics in its programming." http://es.pn/2sOkqjj (h/t Hadas Gold)

****** **A message from Samsung:** Samsung's footprint in the U.S. has been growing for nearly 40 years, and we announced more than $10 Billion in US Growth since 2016. This year, we're proud to have added HARMAN International and its 3,500 U.S. employees to the Samsung workforce in America, and just as enthusiastic about our common vision, the similarities in our culture of innovation, and the added value we can

create for customers. Learn more about our partnership at Samsung.com/VisionForTomorrow ******
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From: InsideEPA.com/climate
Sent: Tue 7/25/2017 6:04:15 PM
Subject: Latest News: Former EPA Transition Official Questions Pruitt's Plan For Climate Debate

July 25, 2017

LATEST NEWS

Schnare, Former Transition Official, On His Departure, EPA Climate Science Review

David Schnare, the former EPA transition official who wrote this article, left the agency earlier this year over concerns about infighting among administration appointees and Administrator Scott Pruitt's alleged lack of engagement. In it, his first since departing the agency, he discusses his reasons for leaving and his views on EPA's upcoming climate science review. The views expressed here are his.

Former EPA Transition Official Questions Pruitt's Plan For Climate Debate

A former Trump EPA transition team official is taking issue with EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt's plans to conduct a "red team, blue team" debate of climate change science, arguing the approach would politicize the issue, is outside of EPA's authority and would result in too shallow of a critique of mainstream findings that human-released greenhouse gases are the primary cause of global warming.

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To: Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
From: POLITICO Pro Energy Whiteboard
Sent: Thur 11/9/2017 1:15:59 AM
Subject: Murkowski releases legislation opening ANWR to development

By Anthony Adragna

11/08/2017 08:14 PM EDT

The Senate Energy Committee released budget reconciliation legislation today that would open a small part of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil and gas development.

According to a summary, the CBO estimates the package would raise $1.092 billion over the 10-year budget window. It would limit development to 2,000 acres on federal land.

"The legislation I released tonight will put Alaska and the entire nation on a path toward greater prosperity by creating jobs, keeping energy affordable for families and businesses, generating new wealth, and strengthening our security," Chairman Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska) said in a statement.

Opening ANWR to development would allow Murkowski to achieve a long-sought goal while meeting instructions in the budget resolution, H. Con. Res. 71, to raise $1 billion in revenue over the next decade.

A map of the area referenced in the bill is available here.

WHAT'S NEXT: The legislation's release allows the committee to move to a markup, perhaps as soon as next week.

To view online:
https://www.politicopro.com/energy/whiteboard/2017/11/murkowski-releases-legislation-opening-anwr-to-development-095441

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To: Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
From: POLITICO
Sent: Fri 6/16/2017 9:23:41 PM
Subject: BREAKING NEWS: U.S. ethics office releases Trump's financial disclosure

The U.S. Office of Government Ethics on Friday released President Donald Trump's financial disclosure, a 98-page document that details his sprawling hotel and real estate empire.

The White House said last month that Trump would voluntarily release his financial disclosure from the 2016 calendar year. The document shows Trump's assets, debts and transactions, but does not provide an exact picture of his net worth.

Read more: http://www.politico.com/story/2017/06/16/us-ethics-office-releases-trumps-financial-disclosure-239649

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To: Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
From: Morning Score
Sent: Wed 5/31/2017 2:04:07 PM
Subject: POLITICO's Morning Score: AAN spends $250K pushing tax reform with new digital ads — Jealous jumps into Maryland governor race — The football rivalry that could decide Alabama's Senate race

By Elena Schneider | 05/31/2017 10:00 AM EDT

With Kevin Robillard and Daniel Strauss

The following newsletter is an abridged version of Campaign Pro's Morning Score. For an earlier morning read on exponentially more races - and for a more comprehensive aggregation of the day's most important campaign news - sign up for Campaign Pro today. (http://www.politicopro.com/proinfo)

NEW THIS MORNING - AAN spends $250K pushing tax reform with new digital ads: The GOP nonprofit tied to House leadership is spending a quarter-million on the second in a series of digital ads pushing the need for tax reform. The ad again stars economist and American Action Forum President Douglas Holtz-Eakin. The ad will run on Google, YouTube and Facebook over the next two weeks. "You often hear that corporations need tax reform, but why?," Holtz-Eakin says direct to camera. "Growth is the biggest problem facing the United States. Our anemic rate of economic growth is depressing wages and harming the standard of living. The corporation income tax has been shown to be the single most anti-growth tax." **Watch the ad here.**

LAUNCHING TODAY - Ben Jealous is launching his bid for Maryland governor. Jealous, the former NAACP president who became a prominent backer of Bernie Sanders last year, is set to make an announcement at 11 a.m. Democrat Alec Ross, a former Obama and Clinton aide, is also running to take on GOP Gov. Larry Hogan. **Here's his launch video.**

INTERNAL POLLING FLOAT - "Democratic poll: Party has a shot in sleepy South Carolina race," by The Washington Post's David Weigel: "The Democrat running for Office of Management and Budget Director Mick Mulvaney's vacant South Carolina House seat claims to be putting it into play, with an internal poll showing him 10 points down in an environment where Republicans are less likely to vote. A poll from Anzalone Liszt Grove Research, completed on May 25 and obtained by The Post, has Democrat Archie Parnell down by 10 points to Ralph Norman, a state legislator making his second run at the rural and suburban seat. That's a six-point bump for Parnell since March, when he began running TV ads, and it's closer than the margin in Mulvaney's last few races or the last presidential elections in South Carolina's 5th District." **Full story.**

- AND ICYMI - Parnell spoofed "House of Cards" in themed web video: Parnell, a tax attorney, hoped to show of a lighter side, promising to be a "matador" for the district. Watch the video here. (But like, Veep is so much better, right?)

ARTICLE ONE - "Support for Trump impeachment rises," by POLITICO's Steve Shepard: "An increasing percentage of voters want Congress to impeach President Donald

Trump - even if they don't think Trump has committed the 'high crimes and misdemeanors' the Constitution requires. Forty-three percent of voters want Congress to begin impeachment proceedings, according to a new POLITICO/Morning Consult poll, up from 38 percent last week. 'If President Trump was hoping his foreign trip would shift the conversation away from scandals, he may be out of luck,' said Morning Consult Co-Founder and Chief Research Officer Kyle Dropp. 'Over the last week, support for beginning impeachment proceedings among voters rose from 38 percent to 43 percent.' But that's still less than the 45 percent who don't want Congress to impeach Trump, down a tick from 46 percent the week before. Only three American presidents in history have faced legitimate impeachment threats." **Full story.**

Days until the 2017 election: 159.

Days until the 2018 election: 523.

Thanks for joining us.You can email tips to the Campaign Pro team at sbland@politico.com, eschneider@politico.com, krobillard@politico.com and dstrauss@politico.com.

You can also follow us on Twitter: @politicoscott, @ec_schneider, @politicokevin and @danielstrauss4.

INSERT FOOTBALL PUN - "The Football Rivalry That Could Decide the Alabama Senate Race," by Campaign Pro's Daniel Strauss in POLITICO Magazine: "At first glance, Alabama Senator Luther Strange has everything going for him headed into the special election for his seat. ... But there's someone who could make life complicated for Strange, and it's not an actual candidate. Though almost a dozen Republicans filed to run in the Republican primary and nearly that number signed up on the Democratic side, the biggest threat to Strange's bid is a burly man whose love of Auburn football is matched only by his grudge against Strange, who draws support from University of Alabama territory." **Full story.**

AIR WAR - Latest Ossoff ad defends national security credentials: "Democrat Jon Ossoff's latest TV ad hits back against Republican attacks that he's puffing up his national security resume, as one TV ad from Republican Karen Handel says Ossoff "intentionally misled us to get our vote" in Georgia's special House election." **Watch Ossoff's ad here. Full story.**

- Northam, Perriello release new ads in Virginia governor primary: "Both Democratic candidates for governor of Virginia released new TV ads today, two weeks out from the state's primary. Lt. Gov. Ralph Northam's new ad focuses on his work as a pediatrician, with him speaking direct-to-camera while wearing a white coat and shots of him holding small children. ...Periello's ad is similar to one he's already aired, opening with footage of President Barack Obama praising him at a rally in Charlottesville in 2010. But when the ad cuts to Perriello speaking direct-to-camera, he addresses his policy priorities as governor instead of his biography, as he did in an earlier spot." **Watch Northam's ad here. Watch Periello's ad here. Full story.**

PLAYBOOK THEFT - Anna Palmer and Jake Sherman report on Claire McCaskill's Cancun adventure: "Sen. Claire McCaskill (D-Mo.) paid more than $15,000 for Senate

Minority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-N.Y.) and Sen. Jon Tester (D-Mont.) and their spouses to spend a few days in Cancun in February 2016. Recently filed financial disclosure documents show McCaskill paid $8,235.11 for Schumer and his wife to travel, stay and eat in Mexico, and $7,410.27 for Tester and his wife to take the trip. Schumer traveled from Dallas and returned to Houston, Schumer's wife traveled from New York and Tester and his wife from Great Falls, Montana."

GROUP THERAPY - Judge launches progressive nonprofit focused on rural America: Democrat Patty Judge, the former Iowa lieutenant governor who lost to GOP Sen. Chuck Grassley in 2016, is launching a new nonprofit focused on pitching progressive policies to rural voters. "In recent years there has been a massive shift in how rural Americans participate in the electoral process," said Sam Roecker, an advisor to the group. "The goal of Focus on Rural America is to investigate this shift, engage rural communities in a discussion about the issues that motivate them, and develop a positive progressive message that will resonate in rural America." The group recently held focus groups with rural Iowans who backed President Donald Trump in 2016 after voting for former President Barack Obama in 2012. **Read their report here**.

- "New Democratic group has strategy to un-Pelosi the party," by Vox's Jeff Stein: "[T]hree House Democrats are backing a new political organization that aims to give progressive candidates in the Midwest and Appalachia a new form of support that isn't dependent on the Democratic Party's coastal financial elite. The People's House Project, founded by former MSNBC host and 2010 Virginia congressional candidate Krystal Ball, has begun interviewing candidates and recruiting donors ... One potential problem identified by some political analysts is the ability of Republicans to run attack ads tying Democrats to the party's coastal and culturally liberal wing. ... '[Pelosi's] an impediment to every House Democrat in the country except for a few coastal enclaves,' Ball said in an interview." **Full story.**

ENDORSEMENT WATCH - Sen. Ted Cruz endorsed Josh Mandel for Senate in Ohio Tuesday. Sen. Rob Portman also backed Mandel last week, as rumors swirl about some Republicans looking for a Mandel alternative since Rep. Pat Tiberi decided not to run.

FAMILY FIGHTS - "To shake up the Democratic Party, progressives turn to a primary race in Virginia," by The Washington Post's Fenit Nirappil and Karen Tumulty: "Virginia lawmaker Marcia Price has her lefty political idols. She broke with every other Democrat in the state legislature last year to endorse Bernie Sanders over Hillary Clinton in the 2016 presidential race. But when it comes to her state's June gubernatorial primary, Price wants her liberal heroes to butt out. ...With two weeks to go before the primary, Virginia has become the center of a family dispute between national progressive Democrats and state activists over the identity and future of the Democratic Party." **Full story.**

FUNDRAISING REPORT - Read Issue One's report on just how much "A" committee fundraising is going toward campaign committee dues **here**.

ADMINISTRATION SPEED READ - "Russia probe scares off potential appointees," by POLITICO's Andrew Restuccia and Josh Dawsey: "President Donald Trump's effort to fill

hundreds of vacant jobs across the federal government has hit a new snag: Russia. Potential hires are paying close attention to the expanding investigations, which have now begun to touch senior Trump aides, with some questioning whether they want to join the administration. Four people who work closely with prospective nominees told POLITICO that some potential hires are having second thoughts about trying to land executive branch appointments as federal and congressional investigations threaten to pose a serious distraction to Trump's agenda." **Full story.**

CODA - QUOTE OF THE DAY: "Government sometimes looks like a big bureaucracy that has stupid rules, but a lot of these things are in place for very good reasons and they've been around for a while and determine the most effective way to do business in the foreign policy sphere. Sometimes it takes presidents longer to figure that out." - Ashley Deeks, a University of Virginia law professor, addressing the news that President Trump is asking world leaders to call him on his personal cell phone, The Associated Press reported. It has also prompted many Drake memes.

To view online:
http://www.politico.com/tipsheets/morning-score/2017/05/31/aan-spends-250k-pushing-tax-reform-with-new-digital-ads-220579

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Sent: Mon 6/5/2017 2:29:22 PM
Subject: BREAKING NEWS: Supreme Court to rule on cellphone location privacy

The Supreme Court has agreed to decide how much privacy Americans are entitled to in cellphone tracking data that can reflect their location and movement.

The justices announced Monday that they will rule on whether a search warrant should be required before authorities obtain information from mobile-phone companies that can reflect a user's approximate movements in the past. The method traces which phone tower a device was connected to and which set of antennas on the tower were used.

The case was brought by a man convicted in a string of armed robberies in Michigan based on "cell site location information" the FBI obtained with a court order, but without a warrant requiring probable cause.

The Trump administration had urged the justices not to hear the case, which will likely be argued in the fall, but civil liberties and privacy advocates encouraged the court to take up the issue.

Read more: http://www.politico.com/story/2017/06/05/supreme-court-to-rule-on-cellphone-location-privacy-239136

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Daily Environment Report

Afternoon Briefing - Your Preview of Today's News

The following news provides a snapshot of what Bloomberg BNA is working on today. Read the full version of all the stories in the final issue, published each night. The Bloomberg BNA Daily Environment Report is brought to you by EPA Libraries. Please note, these materials may be copyrighted and should not be forwarded outside of the U.S. EPA. If you have any questions or no longer wish to receive these messages, please contact Josue Rivera-Olds at rivera-olds.josue@epa.gov, 202-566-1558.

Scientists Skeptical of Pruitt's Call for Climate Debate

Posted July 03, 2017, 04:03 P.M. ET

By David Schultz and Andrew Childers

Climate change scientists see little upside to engaging in EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt's interest in additional debate on the merits of their research, fearing it will only validate the agency's plans to roll back regulations.

"There's nothing that's going to help science in this. If they really want to know what the scientists think, why don't they get a team through the [National Academies of Science] to look at this?" Donald Wuebbles, an atmospheric sciences professor at the University of Illinois, told Bloomberg BNA.

Pruitt expressed an interest in "honest, open discussion" of climate science in a recent interview with Breitbart News Daily. In that interview, he cited a Wall Street Journal opinion piece by Steven Koonin, director of the Center for Urban Science & Progress at New York University, that called for a "red team versus blue team" debate on climate science.

Those exercises, which originated with the military, pit two groups of experts against each other to attack or defend a proposition, in this case climate change. That approach would highlight any lingering uncertainties with climate science, according to Pruitt.

But where Pruitt sees an open debate on the Environmental Protection Agency's climate change work, advocates fear it's the first step toward delaying or blocking more attempts to curb greenhouse gas emissions.

"Is this a true, valid scientific process, or is this a charade to attack the well-established global scientific consensus and justify decisions that have already been made?" Thomas Burke, a Johns Hopkins professor and past EPA science adviser and deputy assistant administrator of the agency's research office, said to Bloomberg BNA.

The EPA did not respond to requests for comment, but proponents of the exercises said they will promote transparency in the agency's work.

"I think that Mr. Pruitt recognizes that red-blue exercises have worked very well," William Happer, a Princeton physicist who has argued that a warmer planet would be beneficial, told Bloomberg BNA. "He's had the courage to apply it where it would make an enormous difference. It will give an answer that people will look at with their own eyes."

Will Minds Change?

While critics of climate change see this as an opportunity to course correct the dogma around carbon dioxide, the exercises—if it happens—is unlikely to change minds on either side of the debate.

"Science is not done by people voting and determining whether something is right or not," Wuebbles said. "And you certainly don't do that with scientists going against a team of nonexperts."

Whether the debates change minds, proponents said the exercises are useful because an adversarial approach can catch and correct institutional biases or blind spots. Both sides agree that how the analysis is structured is critical, however.

"I hope there would be a lot of discussion about how to set this up in a way that is fair and trustworthy, because otherwise it will fail to convince anybody," said Judith Curry, president of Climate Forecast Applications Network who recently retired from the Georgia Institute of Technology citing the politicization of climate science. "A lot of deliberation needs to go into that and it should be public," she told Bloomberg BNA.

How Far Will Analysis Go?

Some critics of the EPA's climate change regulations said the scientific review could be a prelude to the agency walking back its scientific finding on the harms of greenhouse gases that underpin its regulations.

"If they're going to address the science at all in a way that supports their policies, this would be the only way to do it," Marlo Lewis Jr., a senior fellow at the Competitive Enterprise Institute, told Bloomberg BNA. "You can't go back to the same people at EPA who are already in the tank for the Paris Agreement and are convinced that this is the end of the world. If you're going to have a debate, you've got to have two sides."

The institute, a free-market advocacy group, has petitioned the EPA to undo the greenhouse gas endangerment finding.

"All of these issues have been discussed in great detail in the [Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change], outside the IPCC, in the literature, in the policy world. I think there's nothing new that would come out," D. James Baker, director of forest and land-use measurement at the Clinton Climate Initiative and past administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, told Bloomberg BNA. "All of the issues have been discussed in detail. We know what carbon dioxide does: It warms the atmosphere."

Louisiana Town Convulsed by Relocation as Climate Policy Shifts

Posted July 03, 2017, 9:08 A.M. ET

By Christopher Flavelle

There was a fight coming and everyone knew it, so the reverend asked his guests to start with a prayer.

"Dear Lord, here we gather to consider ways and means that we might be relocated," began Roch Naquin, who lives in Isle de Jean Charles, La., a town slipping into the sea and the site of a radical federal policy experiment. A few dozen residents had gathered July 1 under Naquin's stilted house to hear state officials describe three locations for the new community, and to choose their favorite.

"Open our hearts and our minds—to hear, to understand and to respond," said Naquin. "Amen," said the neighbors. It took about 30 minutes for the shouting to start.

"Why is it going to take so long to buy the land?" demanded one woman. "Will you pull the money?" asked another. "Crooks!" one man said, to nobody in particular.

Last year, Isle de Jean Charles became the first U.S. town to get government money to move because of global warming. Eighteen months later, what started as a model has become a warning. Even as the federal government rewrites climate policy, the greatest challenge to the project may nonetheless be the people it's meant to help.

Mathew Sanders, head of the resilience program at Louisiana's Office of Community Development and the project's chief, said that Isle de Jean Charles will demonstrate the viability of such efforts. "We're going to find out the answer to that question, one way or another," he said.

Failure would be all the more striking for the stakes involved. President Barack Obama's administration awarded Louisiana $48 million to move fewer than 40 families, most of them members of the Biloxi-Chitimacha-Choctaw tribe; the state said it wants to generate "a radical rethinking of the nation's coastal land use and development patterns."

But President Donald Trump has begun reversing Obama's efforts to curb emissions, including leaving the Paris climate accord. His administration has told agencies to stop factoring climate change into decisions and targeted a program to help Indian tribes adapt to extreme weather.

Those shifts reflect the administration's refusal to acknowledge scientific consensus. Trump's head of the Environmental Protection Agency, Scott Pruitt, told coal executives last week that he would start a "red team-blue team" exercise to challenge the very notion that greenhouse gases are warming the planet.

Trump's actions are likely to increase pressure on coastal communities to consider whether, and how, to pull back from the water.

"This is the fate of cities throughout the U.S., as well as the world, and we've got to figure it out," said Robin Bronen, a University of Alaska researcher who has worked with native communities seeking similar government-funded relocations.

The July 1 meeting revealed three crucial fault lines. The first was definitional: Who is part of a community?

In a place ravaged by decades of severe weather, that question is anything but abstract. Isle de

Jean Charles has been shrinking not just in acres but in population. Yet the state defined residents only as those who lived on the island when Hurricane Isaac struck in 2012.

The meeting was attended by current and former residents, and tension grew as state employees distributed ballots for a new site—but only to people who attested that they that they lived on the island since Isaac.

Chantelle Comardelle's parents left in 1986, after Hurricane Juan flooded their trailer. She said she was hospitalized with asthma, and doctors advised her parents to move. "I did not leave by choice," she said.

"Why can't I get a preference on a site?" asked Comardelle, now the 35-year-old secretary of the Biloxi-Chitimacha-Choctaw tribal council.

Ray Hendon, who left before Isaac, said he couldn't afford to stay: The sole road is often impassable after heavy rain, which kept him from his job. "I had to move," he said.

"We can't afford to move," shot back Amy Handon, whose last name is a variation on a common local theme.

"Everybody here is gonna show everybody else respect," Sanders insisted. The warning had no obvious effect.

The debate subsided only when the focus shifted to an even more contentious question: What would the state do with the island?

Some residents said they believe Louisiana wants to turn the island into a resort. "That's what we heard—after everybody moves, the state is going to take it over," said Comardelle's father, Wenceslaus Billiot Jr.

That fear was voiced repeatedly July 1. Sanders and his boss, Pat Forbes, who runs the Office of Community Development, seemed unsure how to dispel it.

"We have said over and over again, you are going to get to keep the land that's here,' said Forbes. "The state has absolutely no interest in owning the island."

The third fear was the most fundamental: How could residents be sure that their new home would really be better? Would they like living there?

Thirty-five miles north and half a world away, Sanders and his team selected as the candidates three sugarcane fields nestled among highways, oil and gas facilities and residential subdivisions.

The day before the meeting, Jacob Giardina, a local developer who owns a 50 percent stake in two of the properties, showed a visiting reporter around. Each tract had long rows of cane, punctuated by drainage canals and patches of trees along their edges.

"It's some of the highest land that's left in the area," Giardina said, though sections still flood occasionally. The third property, owned by a New Orleans lawyer and her family, was even lower, with parts as little as two feet above sea level.

The state had faced a dilemma. Build too close to Isle de Jean Charles, and residents would remain

exposed. Build too far north, and fewer would move. Compromise meant a relatively flood-prone site that could nonetheless cost $30 million.

Albert Naquin, who is chief of the tribe and lives off the island, brought a photograph of one site after a rainstorm. Water filled the fields. "I just wanted to let you all know," he said.

Edison Dardar said the locations were too far away, and he would prefer that Sanders just give him a million dollars. Sanders demurred. Somebody in the crowd gamely suggested half a million.

It was midday now, and the temperature had reached 91 degrees; attention was dwindling. Residents had begun talking to each other, rehashing disputes. Forbes took the microphone.

"This is a great turnout," he said. "I'm so thrilled so many people came, and thanks for coming and participating. This is important."

By that point, nobody seemed to be listening.

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Court Revives EPA Methane Regulation on Oil, Gas Drillers

Posted July 03, 2017, 01:32 P.M. ET

By David Schultz

A federal appeals court has revived an Obama-era EPA methane regulation on the oil and gas industry after the Trump administration tried to place it on hold.

This means oil and gas drillers may have to comply with this regulation despite earlier indications they wouldn't have to.

The regulation at issue requires oil and gas drillers to boost their monitoring for leaking methane, a potent greenhouse gas. It was enacted in the final months of the Obama administration as part of its Climate Action Plan.

Earlier this year, the Environmental Protection Agency announced that it will reconsider this regulation and moved to place its upcoming compliance deadlines on hold. A three-judge panel in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit, however, ruled July 3 that the EPA could not impose a three-month delay on implementing the regulation, which means its upcoming compliance deadlines may go into effect after all.

Canada Seeks to Go Beyond International Maritime Arctic Rules

Posted July 03, 2017, 02:38 P.M. ET

By Peter Menyasz

Ships in Arctic waters would still be required to meet pollution-prevention rules that go beyond internationally agreed upon standards, Canada proposed.

Draft regulations to adopt the International Maritime Organization's Polar Code would require ship

owners to meet Canada's stringent current standards for waste, sewage, and oil pollution, the government said.

The proposed Arctic Shipping Safety and Pollution Prevention Regulations would continue to prohibit the discharge of any waste, oil, noxious liquid substances and untreated sewage from ships in Canadian Arctic waters except where specifically authorized, but would add any stronger measures included in the Polar Code, Transport Canada said July 1.

"Although Canada has had its own unique domestic Arctic shipping regime based on the central tenets of precautionary ship safety and pollution prevention since the early 1970s, this regime contains certain measures that are now outdated and require revision to reflect advancements in ship design and technology," the department said.

The regulations would repeal Canada's existing regime for protecting Arctic waters, the Arctic Shipping Pollution Prevention Regulations, but many of the existing requirements that go beyond the provisions in the Polar Code are reproduced in the new regulations, it said.

The Shipping Federation of Canada, which represents owners, operators, and agents in all sectors of the shipping industry, did not respond to a June 30 request for comment from Bloomberg BNA on the proposal.

The government noted that it had consulted with industry since 2013 on developing the Polar Code and how Canada would implement its provisions. An earlier draft of the proposed regulations was presented during Transport Canada's Canadian Marine Advisory Council meeting in April 2016

The regulations are open to public comment through Sept. 14.

Canada was instrumental in developing the Polar Code, or International Code for Ships Operating in Polar Waters, adopted by the International Maritime Organization in May 2015 through amendments to the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS) and the International Convention on the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL), the government said.

Canada has since taken steps under each of those conventions to be bound to the Polar Code's safety-related technical amendments on Jan. 1, 2018, it said. However, Canada would only be bound by the pollution-prevention amendments to MARPOL on Arctic waters after giving its express approval to the IMO, it said.

More Stringent Measures Maintained

The regulations would adopt all of the Polar Code's safety-related requirements, but only those pollution provisions that add to or improve Canada's existing Arctic shipping pollution-prevention regime, the government said.

For example, the code prohibits the discharge of oil or oily mixtures, but that would duplicate the existing provisions in Canada's rules, it said. On the other hand, Canada's current regime allows releases of untreated sewage, but the regulations adopt the more stringent rules in the code that only permit discharges from vessels of 400 gross tons or more or certified to carry more than 15 persons, it said.

Specific prohibitions that would go beyond the Polar Code's requirements include:

• discharges of oil, unlike the code's allowances for discharges of ballast containing up to 5 parts per

million of oil, as well as oily water from machinery for certain vessels operating in Arctic waters for more than 30 days;

• carriage of certain noxious liquid substances, identified in the International Code for the Construction and Equipment of Ships Carrying Dangerous Chemicals in Bulk, on vessels built after Jan. 1, 2017, unless separated from the outer shell;

• deposits of garbage, other than food waste under certain conditions;

Adoption of the Polar Code is not expected to impose significant costs on industry or government as, other than some exceptions and improvements, the draft regulations are largely equivalent to Canada's existing regime, the government said. Any additional costs to industry would be due to new vessel safety requirements, not the pollution prevention rules, it said.

Obama in Indonesia Takes Swipe at Trump on Paris Climate Accord

Posted July 03, 2017, 8:40 A.M. ET

By Karlis Salna

Former U.S. President Barack Obama has pointed to the importance of the Paris climate accord while criticizing Donald Trump for pulling the world's biggest economy out of the pact.

Trump said last month he would withdraw from the pact and seek to negotiate a better deal, in a move that attracted widespread criticism from counterparts in Europe and elsewhere. The decision by Trump to walk away from the 2015 agreement was also criticized by business leaders, with some describing it as a setback for the environment.

"In Paris, we came together around the most ambitious agreement in history to fight climate change," Obama said July 1 in a speech at the opening of the Fourth Congress of the Indonesian Diaspora in Jakarta. He said it was "an agreement that even with the temporary absence of American leadership will still give our children a fighting chance."

"The challenges of our times, whether it's economic inequality, changing climate, terrorism, mass migration; these are really challenges and we're going to have to confront them together," he said.

Obama, who has been holidaying in Indonesia and on June 30 met with President Joko Widodo, also warned in remarks July 1 against rising sectarian politics around the world, as well as growing discrimination based on race and ethnicity.

"There are going to be some big decisions to make about Indonesia and about the United States and about the world in the years to come," he said. "It's been clear for a while that the world is at a crossroads, at an inflection point."

He said in Jakarta there had been "enormous progress" which had occurred "in part because of the stability that the United States helped support here in the Asia Pacific."

Global Challenges

But the former president said there are also challenges, and that globalization and technology had created problems and "shifts in the foundations of societies" and in politics both in developing and developed countries.

"The world is more prosperous than ever before, but this has also brought significant changes that are dangerous."

"We start seeing a rise in sectarian politics, we start seeing a rise in an aggressive kind of nationalism, we start seeing both in developed and developing countries an increased resentment about minority groups and the bad treatment of people who don't look like us or practice the same faith as us."

"We start seeing discrimination against people based on race or ethnicity or religion." Those threats must be confronted, Obama said.

Obama, who spent four years in Indonesia as a child, met with Widodo, known as Jokowi, at Bogor on the outskirts of the capital. "I always found Jokowi to be a man of quiet but firm integrity and somebody who sincerely wants what's right by all Indonesians," he said.

Their meeting touched on issues such as infrastructure and economic development, according to Obama, who said July 1 that the U.S. and Indonesia shared the common values of "pluralism and tolerance and openness and rule of law."

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Brazil Companies Get Extension for Mine Spill Settlement

Posted July 03, 2017, 7:55 A.M. ET

By Michael Kepp

A Brazilian judge gave Samarco Mineracao and two other companies four more months to finalize an agreement to pay for environmental damages and compensate those hurt by the 2015 rupture of a mining waste reservoir.

Samarco Mineracao, the mining company that operates the reservoir, and co-owners Brazil's Vale S.A. and the Anglo-Australian BHP Billiton Ltd., have until Oct. 30 to settle with federal prosecutors in Minas Gerais state, federal Judge Mario de Paula Franco Junior of the 12th regional federal court in Belo Horizonte ruled.

The delay, issued June 29 on the eve of the original deadline, was due to "the complexities of the issues being dealt with," the judge wrote.

The tailings reservoir collapsed in November 2015 dumping 62 million cubic meters of iron-ore waste in Minas Gerais state, triggering a flood that killed 19 people, flattening a village of 600, and polluting the Doce River. The Environment Ministry called it Brazil's "worst environmental catastrophe."

The settlement will dismiss a 2016 lawsuit, filed by federal prosecutors, seeking 155 billion reais ($47 billion) in damages from the accident, as well as a second lawsuit seeking 20 billion reais ($6 billion).

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Daily Environment Report for EPA

To: Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
From: POLITICO
Sent: Thur 5/25/2017 6:38:36 PM
Subject: BREAKING NEWS: Appeals court keeps block on revised Trump travel ban

The 4th Circuit Court of Appeals has upheld an injunction blocking a key part of President Donald Trump's revised travel ban executive order.

In a 10-3 vote that fell essentially along party lines, the judges refused to disturb a lower court ruling that barred the administration from proceeding with a plan to deny visas to citizens of six majority-Muslim countries.

A panel of another federal appeals court-the San Francisco-based 9th Circuit-is considering whether to lift an even broader order blocking the enforcement of parts of Trump's directive.

Trump issued his first executive order after it was largely halted in an earlier round of legal action. In March, he withdrew the previous foray and reissued narrowed version of the measure in March.

The president billed both directives as a way to counter the threat of terrorism on U.S. soil, but critics have branded the orders as transparent attempts to carry out the "Muslim ban" Trump promised during last year's presidential campaign.

Read more: http://www.politico.com/story/2017/05/25/appeals-court-keeps-block-on-revised-trump-travel-ban-238834

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October 27, 2017

BREAKING NEWS

Court Pauses EPA's GHG Trailer Standards, Further Imperiling Truck Rule

A three-judge panel of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit has stayed implementation of the portions of the Obama EPA's greenhouse gas rule for heavy-duty trucks that regulate trailers, giving the manufacturers a reprieve from fast-approaching January compliance deadlines.

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Daily Environment Report

May 23, 2017 - Number 98

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Leading the News

Taxes
Bundle Clean Energy, Nuclear Tax Credit Proposals: Lawmakers
A diverse set of lawmakers is aiming to revive expired clean energy tax credits alongside an early extension of a nuclear production credit.

News

Air Pollution
Dust, Wildfire Air Exemption Too Broad, Environmentalists Argue
An EPA rule that allows states to discount wildfires and other natural events when trying to meet pollution targets is too broad and would weaken national air quality standards, according to environmentalists who are suing the agency in a federal appeals court.

Biotechnology
China Pushes Public to Accept Biotech Crops as Syngenta Takeover Nears
China will carry out a nationwide poll next month to test the public's acceptance of genetically modified food, a technology the government says would boost yields and sustainable agriculture in a country that's seen consumption soar.

Budget
EPA Gives to Toxics With One Hand What It Takes From Climate
Climate change's loss at the EPA has been a boon to its chemicals work, which has been the recipient of funds previously earmarked for greenhouse gases.

Climate Change
NATO Lawmakers Warn Global Warming Will Trigger Food Shortages

Lawmakers from nations in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization are warning that global warming will lead to mass migration and conflict in the Middle East and Africa, another reason they say President Donald Trump should keep the U.S. in the Paris climate deal.

Coal Mining

Science Panel to Visit Mining Country in Study of Health Effects

Environmental advocates will tell a scientific advisory board in West Virginia May 23 that surface mining causes asthma, black lung disease and high stress levels in people who live nearby.

Drinking Water

Faulty Cost Analysis Sinks California's Chromium 6 Tap Water Limit

Is California's 10 parts per billion standard for chromium 6 in drinking water cost prohibitive? That's a question California regulators must revisit in adopting a new maximum contaminant level for the cancer-causing chemical now that a court has found the state failed to consider if meeting the standard is economically feasible—as required by California law.

Endangered Species

Court Clears Costly Path in Win for Washington Salmon, Tribes

Washington state may have to spend up to $1.88 billion to modify hundreds of culverts that block migrating salmon after a federal appeals court agreed the structures violated treaties with Native Americans.

Energy

Move Over Tesla, Europe's Building Its Own Battery Gigafactories

Battery-making gigafactories are about to arrive in Europe, challenging a lead Tesla Inc. is building at a plant in Nevada and opening the way for a quicker shift toward green power for both cars and utilities.

Energy

New York AG Presses Search for Tillerson Lost Exxon Emails

New York Attorney General Eric Schneiderman is pressing on with a search for U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson's lost emails that he wrote under the pseudonym of "Wayne Tracker" while he was the chief executive of Exxon Mobile Corp.

Enforcement

China Sends Out Environmental Inspectors, Starts Trials of Bureau Reforms

China has begun central oversight of some local and regional environmental protection bureaus hoping to end the practice of protectionism of local companies blamed for lax enforcement of some environmental laws.

Oil & Gas

Former Louisiana Regulator to Head Ocean Drilling Oversight

Scott Angelle, a former natural resources regulator in Louisiana, has been appointed to lead the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement, which polices offshore drilling, starting May 23.

Pesticides

Farmworkers Sue EPA Over Pesticide Rule Delay

Farmworker associations are taking the EPA to court for delaying a rule to update requirements for pesticide applicators finalized in the last days of the Obama administration.

Renewable Energy

China May Idle Less Wind Power as Consumption Rises, Center Says

China may see the percentage of wind turbines sitting idle fall this year as the growth in power demand accelerates, the country's National Renewable Energy Information Management Center forecasts.

Renewable Energy

GE Said to Face Probe for Misleading EU Over $1.7 Billion Deal

General Electric Co. is the latest U.S. company to be investigated by European Union for possibly turning in misleading information during a merger review, according to two people familiar with the GE case.

Renewable Energy

Washington State, Mexico Team Up on Battery Storage for Renewables

Mexico could tap into Washington state battery storage technology to extend the capacity of its renewable energy.

Superfund

Pruitt Calls for Streamlined Superfund Cleanup Program

EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt is seeking recommendations on how to optimize EPA oversight of the Superfund program and increase the roles played by tribes, states, regions and other federal departments in cleanup decisions.

Sustainability

First Green Bonds Sold by an Oil Giant Find Willing Investors

A major oil company is set to benefit from the sale of green bonds for the first time, raising concerns about standards in the quick-growing market for environmentally friendly finance.

Toxic Substances

Southwestern Energy Can't Shake Fracking Waste Suit

Southwestern Energy Co. will again face claims that fracking waste it disposed of in a defunct well contaminated a neighboring property, after the Eighth Circuit reinstated the claims (Stroud v. Sw. Energy Co., 2017 BL 169447, 8th Cir., No. 15-3458, 5/22/17).

Trade

Chinese Solar Makers Shown $55 Million Path to Avoid Tariffs

An investment firm that is financing a trade complaint against cheap imported solar cells said that case would disappear if Chinese companies bought $55 million in manufacturing equipment.

Water Infrastructure

Podcast: Sink Local Money Into Drinking Water Systems: GOP Lawmaker

Politicians often say infrastructure shouldn't be a partisan issue, but the truth is Democrats and Republicans have different views on how to pay for upgrading roads, bridges and drinking water systems, Rep. John Shimkus (R-Ill.) told Bloomberg BNA.

Water Infrastructure

Video: See How Green Infrastructure Captures Polluted Stormwater

When it rains, it pours. And when it pours, stormwater flows, picking up debris, oil and toxic chemicals on roads, which ultimately pollute nearby waters.

CORRECTION

A story published in the May 19 report, "Pesticide Rule Delay Unusual, but Not Necessarily

Illegal" has been clarified to state that Former Labor Secretary Hilda Solis suspended a "midnight rule" from her predecessor. The online version has been corrected.

Regulatory Agenda

TODAY'S FEDERAL REGISTER

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Daily Environment Report for EPA

To: Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
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Subject: WTAS: Leaders Praise The Trump Administration's Move To Rescind WOTUS

WHAT THEY ARE SAYING

Elected Leaders Praise The Trump Administration's Move To Rescind WOTUS

WASHINGTON – With the EPA moving to rescind WOTUS, leaders from across the country are praising this decision.

WHAT GOVERNORS ARE SAYING …

Governor Sam Brownback (KS): "The Clean Water Rule was another example of bureaucrats in Washington, D.C. trying to run Kansas farms and ranches. Our state is a leader in water innovation, and Kansans have come together through community-led water preservation efforts spurred by our 50-year Water Vision. Our farmers and ranchers know best how to steward their water. We appreciate that President Trump and the EPA will now let our farmers farm and ranchers ranch." (Press Release, 06/27/17)

Governor Doug Burgum (ND): "Clean water is critical to quality of life and our economy, and no one cares more about clean water in North Dakota than the people who live here. Today's action is a welcome step toward a rule recognizing that states are best positioned to protect, manage and regulate their own waters. The Obama administration's WOTUS rule was a particularly egregious example of regulatory overreach that effectively classified almost every pond, pothole and slough as a federal managed waterway, creating confusion and uncertainty for farmers, ranchers, landowners and local governments. We are encouraged that the EPA and Corps of Engineers have been reaching out to governors early in this renewed rulemaking process, and we hope such consultation will continue and culminate in a rule that respects states' authority and unique role in protecting their water resources. We are grateful to EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt for his leadership on this issue." (Press Release, 06/27/17)

Governor Eric Greitens (MO): "When we took office, we asked our farmers and ranchers what we could do to fight for them. One of the things we heard is that they needed our help to push back against Obama's Waters of the US regulations. Well, we took that message to Washington D.C. and the good news is they've heard us. They've heard that Obama's Waters of the US regulations are hurting family farmers." (Facebook, 06/27/17)

Governor Kim Reynolds (IA): "Waters of the United States was a significant and severe case of government overreach by the Obama administration. I want to thank Secretary Pruitt for recognizing that WOTUS forced onerous and unnecessary burdens on Iowa's farmers and businesses. I also want to express my appreciation to the Trump administration for its continuing commitment to work with states, not against them." (Press Release, 06/27/17)

Governor Pete Ricketts (NE): "Thank you to President Trump and Administrator Pruitt for delivering on your promise to roll back this job-killing regulation. This policy returns federal oversight of intra-state waterways to pre-2015 standards, respects the rights of private land owners and states, and provides for ample protection of clean water. Removing this threat to our state's top industries gives Nebraska the freedom to grow more opportunities for the next generation in the areas of agriculture and manufacturing." (Press Release, 06/27/17)

WHAT SENATORS ARE SAYING …

Senate Ag Chairman Pat Roberts: "I'm pleased Administrator Pruitt and the EPA has listened to our concerns and has taken an important first step to rescind the infamous WOTUS rule. For too long, this rule has burdened not only farmers and ranchers, but landowners of all sizes, across the country. With a rewrite of the WOTUS rule, I look forward to seeing a rule that recognizes and respects the environmental strides taken by the American farmer and rancher. I'm grateful to have an EPA that listens to and addresses the concerns of rural America, a vital segment of our economy and true stewards of our natural resources." (Press Release, 06/27/17)

Senator Joni Ernst (IA): "I am pleased that the Trump administration is taking another important step toward eliminating this burdensome WOTUS rule. In Iowa, 97 percent of the land is subject to extensive overregulation by the EPA and unnecessarily hamstrings our farmers, businesses and manufacturers. All across Iowa, folks are calling for this rule to be scrapped, which is why I have led efforts in the Senate to do just that. This is good news for Iowa and rural communities across the country as we move closer to finally eliminating this overreaching rule." (Press Release, 06/27/17)

Senator Deb Fischer (NE): "Today's announcement from the administration signals another important step toward full removal of the harmful WOTUS rule. All Nebraskans would have been affected by the far-reaching consequences of this misguided policy. I will continue to monitor the WOTUS withdrawal process to help ensure we see common-sense rulemaking that puts Nebraskans in charge of the decisions involving our state's water resources." (Press Release, 06/27/17)

Senator Chuck Grassley (IA): "This is great news for accountability in government. This was a bad regulation drafted under a bad process. The EPA over-reached its authority and ignored and manipulated legitimate concerns raised by the public. Farmers, land owners and builders in Iowa struggled to make sense of the regulation. Having the federal EPA and the Corps of Engineers require permits for routine land use decisions is a waste of resources that are better used enforcing existing regulations against discharging pollutants into the nation's waterways. Agencies ought to enforce the laws as Congress intended, not stretch beyond their authority to inflict unnecessary expense and red tape on law-abiding farmers and employers." (Press Release, 06/27/17)

Senator Dean Heller (NV): "Given that the Nevada is the driest state in the nation, water is a precious resource to Nevadans. Whether it's Marlow from Ruby Valley or Darryl from Yerington, Nevadans around the state have told me that they fear the WOTUS rule provides federal agencies with almost unlimited authority to regulate their farms and ranches at their own discretion. … I applaud the EPA for taking additional steps to repeal the WOTUS rule, which has burdened rural Nevadans and stifled job creation in Nevada." (Press Release, 06/27/17)

Senator Steve Daines (MT): "Today marks the beginning of restoring private property rights while protecting our environment. Out of state D.C. bureaucrats shouldn't impose regulations that hurt Montana farmers, ranchers and landowners." (Press Release, 06/27/17)

WHAT REPRESENTATIVES ARE SAYING …

Speaker of the U.S. House, Paul Ryan: "The West has finally won in the battle over the Obama administration's WOTUS rule. This regulation would have been a disaster for the West and rural communities across the country, giving Washington near-total control over water resources. The livelihoods of American farmers, ranchers, and entrepreneurs were at stake. I applaud the Trump administration for siding with American jobs and rescinding this harmful rule." (Twitter, 06/27/17)

House Ag Chairman K. Michael Conaway (TX): "WOTUS has never been about clean water, it was about feeding the Obama EPA's insatiable appetite for power. Well that ends now. Today's EPA announcement is an important first step to getting the federal government out of America's backyards, fields and ditches and restoring certainty and integrity to our regulatory process. But our work isn't done. As the case of California farmer John Duarte clearly highlights, the Corps and DOJ also need to re-evaluate and revise their enforcement of the Clean Water Act and WOTUS to ensure we protect our farmers and ranchers from onerous fines and penalties that threaten their way of life. I have confidence this administration will get the policy right and allow farmers and ranchers to be the capable stewards of the land they've always been." (Press Release, 06/27/17)

U.S Rep. Liz Cheney (WY): "The Clean Water Rule was a power grab by the Obama Administration that attempted to expand federal control and regulations well beyond the initial scope of Waters of the U.S. The rule threatened the loss of precious resources for hardworking ranchers and farmers in Wyoming, and if left unchecked, would have devastated our rural economy. I am pleased to see EPA Administrator Pruitt and the Army Corps of Engineers taking these steps to return power to the states and provide them with regulatory certainty. I also remain committed to working in Congress towards a full repeal of burdensome regulations imposed by the previous administration." (Press Release, 06/27/17)

U.S. Rep. Doug Collins (GA): "Northeast Georgia farmers, ranchers, and small businesses are natural conservationists who have been overburdened by the illogical Waters of the United States regulation. I applaud the Army Corps of Engineers and Environmental Protection Agency for their move to repeal the WOTUS rule in favor of statutes that actually serve our communities and steward their natural resources wisely." (Press Release, 06/27/17)

U.S. Rep. Bob Gibbs (OH): "I applaud Administrator Pruitt's announcement to withdraw the Obama-era Waters of the United States rule, which expanded federal authority at the expense of the states and eroded private property rights. The EPA should not treat farmers, ranchers, homebuilders, local governments, or state environmental agencies as adversaries but rather collaborators in drafting a new WOTUS rule. American farmers who feed the world are among those most concerned with protecting our environment. The next WOTUS rule should take their opinions and concerns into account and I look forward to working with Administrator Pruitt to craft a reasonable rule that protects the environment and private property rights at the same time." (Press Release, 06/27/17)

U.S Rep. Louie Gohmert (TX): Washington bureaucrats in cubicles should not be deciding the fate of our waterways, nor should they be allowed to completely and arbitrarily control the economic fate of landowners even to the point of ending their ability to make a living. Unelected bureaucrats have, for years, been enviously dreaming of the day they could control American landowners' property by the backdoor methods of completely controlling everything involving water on or near the land. Repealing the Obama Administration's WOTUS Rule is essential in getting the federal government out of everyday farming operations. It is neither right nor fair to subject producers and landowners to jurisdictional protocols and extraordinary levels of compliance charges. Today the EPA took a giant step forward in safeguarding the water rights of hard-working Americans and ending the federal power grab the Obama Administration engineered. It is a victory for those who love liberty and

something called private property." (Press Release, 06/27/17)

U.S. Rep. Mike Johnson (LA): "The so called 'WOTUS Rule' was a gross overreach by the Obama Administration and put mud puddles and backyard ditches under government control. Farmers and every day Americans all across the country have been subjected to new, burdensome regulations that kill jobs and further hinder the economy. Removing this rule will restore common sense to water regulation and return power back to the states and to the people." (Press Release, 06/27/17)

U.S. Rep. Doug Lamborn (CO): "The previous administration used the vague language in the WOTUS Rule to harm local communities—including ranchers, farmers, small business owners. I am grateful that this new ruling will establish regulatory certainty and restore order to state and tribal water laws that should have jurisdiction over these bodies of water. I look forward to a revision of this rule that will empower local landowners instead of giving power solely to the federal government." (Press Release, 06/27/17)

U.S. Rep. Cathy McMorris Rodgers (WA): "WOTUS is one of the most burdensome EPA rules of the Obama Administration. You think about the impact it's had on rural communities, on our cattlemen and farmers— it's making it more and more difficult for hardworking Americans to be successful. It's something I've heard about frequently in Eastern Washington. Thank you to President Trump and his administration for taking action to ensure this rule no longer targets our rural communities." (Press Release, 06/27/17)

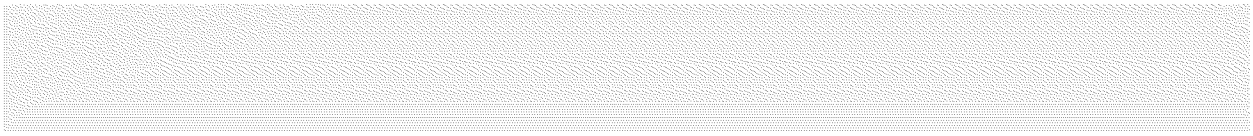
U.S. Rep. Martha McSally (AZ): "WOTUS is a sweeping regulation written by unelected bureaucrats that would give the EPA jurisdiction over any type of body of water on private land—lakes, ponds, creeks, and even desert washes. I have heard from countless small businesses, farmers, and ranchers that this rule prevents them from doing their job, which is why I led dozens of my colleagues in Congress in writing to the Administration in February urging the President to reverse this rule for the sake of Southern Arizona and communities throughout the United States. I am pleased with the EPA's decision to repeal the harmful WOTUS rule—and I know that Americans across the country are relieved by this news." (Press Release, 06/27/17)

U.S Rep. Kristi Noem (SD): "Under the Obama-era WOTUS rule, treating your lawn for mosquitos, putting up a fence in your backyard or spraying your crops could become federally regulated activities that carry substantial fines if violations occur – knowingly or unknowingly. The Trump administration is right to propose a repeal." (Press Release, 06/27/17)

U.S. Rep. Scott Tipton (CO): "This announcement from Administrator Pruitt is welcome news. State law and priority-based systems have ensured clean, safe, and reliable water supplies for over a century in Colorado and the West. The WOTUS rule would have usurped long-held state water law and threatened access to private water rights. Western water users will now have much needed certainty while the EPA re-writes the definition of 'Waters of the United States." (Press Release, 06/27/17)

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To: Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
From: InsideEPA/climate
Sent: Fri 6/16/2017 8:54:30 PM
Subject: Today on Climate Beat

June 16, 2017

Today on Climate Beat . . .

. . . we went out West, reporting that California's attorney general is commending EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt's comments that the agency is not "currently" reviewing the state's Clean Air Act waiver allowing it to enforce its own vehicle greenhouse gas standards, while reiterating prior pledges to sue over any attempt to revoke that authority.

In business news, the massive investment firm BlackRock is underscoring its renewed push for energy companies to bolster their disclosure of climate change-related risks, publishing a series of "bulletins" explaining the firm's recent votes to urge several oil and gas companies to improve such disclosure.

In court, environmentalists are arguing EPA's recent submission of a draft proposed rule to repeal the Clean Power Plan (CPP) does not justify "indefinite abeyance" of pending litigation over the merits of the greenhouse gas rule for existing power plants – in part because a rulemaking process to undo the CPP could take years.

We also highlighted some of this week's must read stories, covering the CPP, the social cost of carbon, EPA's budget and state climate action.

And our daily news roundup looked at the hopes of free-market groups after President Donald Trump's decision to leave the Paris Agreement, with the groups now urging EPA to target its GHG endangerment finding.

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To: Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
From: Bloomberg BNA
Sent: Mon 7/3/2017 8:13:14 PM
Subject: July 3 -- Energy and Climate Report - Afternoon Briefing

Energy and Climate Report

Afternoon Briefing - Your Preview of Today's News

The following news provides a snapshot of what Bloomberg BNA is working on today. Read the full version of all the stories in the final issue, published each night.

Scientists Skeptical of Pruitt's Call for Climate Debate

Posted July 03, 2017, 04:03 P.M. ET

By David Schultz and Andrew Childers

Climate change scientists see little upside to engaging in EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt's interest in additional debate on the merits of their research, fearing it will only validate the agency's plans to roll back regulations.

"There's nothing that's going to help science in this. If they really want to know what the scientists think, why don't they get a team through the [National Academies of Science] to look at this?" Donald Wuebbles, an atmospheric sciences professor at the University of Illinois, told Bloomberg BNA.

Pruitt expressed an interest in "honest, open discussion" of climate science in a recent interview with Breitbart News Daily. In that interview, he cited a Wall Street Journal opinion piece by Steven Koonin, director of the Center for Urban Science & Progress at New York University, that called for a "red team versus blue team" debate on climate science.

Those exercises, which originated with the military, pit two groups of experts against each other to attack or defend a proposition, in this case climate change. That approach would highlight any lingering uncertainties with climate science, according to Pruitt.

But where Pruitt sees an open debate on the Environmental Protection Agency's climate change work, advocates fear it's the first step toward delaying or blocking more attempts to curb greenhouse gas emissions.

"Is this a true, valid scientific process, or is this a charade to attack the well-established global scientific consensus and justify decisions that have already been made?" Thomas Burke, a Johns Hopkins professor and past EPA science adviser and deputy assistant administrator of the agency's research office, said to Bloomberg BNA.

The EPA did not respond to requests for comment, but proponents of the exercises said they will promote transparency in the agency's work.

"I think that Mr. Pruitt recognizes that red-blue exercises have worked very well," William Happer, a

Princeton physicist who has argued that a warmer planet would be beneficial, told Bloomberg BNA. "He's had the courage to apply it where it would make an enormous difference. It will give an answer that people will look at with their own eyes."

Will Minds Change?

While critics of climate change see this as an opportunity to course correct the dogma around carbon dioxide, the exercises—if it happens—is unlikely to change minds on either side of the debate.

"Science is not done by people voting and determining whether something is right or not," Wuebbles said. "And you certainly don't do that with scientists going against a team of nonexperts."

Whether the debates change minds, proponents said the exercises are useful because an adversarial approach can catch and correct institutional biases or blind spots. Both sides agree that how the analysis is structured is critical, however.

"I hope there would be a lot of discussion about how to set this up in a way that is fair and trustworthy, because otherwise it will fail to convince anybody," said Judith Curry, president of Climate Forecast Applications Network who recently retired from the Georgia Institute of Technology citing the politicization of climate science. "A lot of deliberation needs to go into that and it should be public," she told Bloomberg BNA.

How Far Will Analysis Go?

Some critics of the EPA's climate change regulations said the scientific review could be a prelude to the agency walking back its scientific finding on the harms of greenhouse gases that underpin its regulations.

"If they're going to address the science at all in a way that supports their policies, this would be the only way to do it," Marlo Lewis Jr., a senior fellow at the Competitive Enterprise Institute, told Bloomberg BNA. "You can't go back to the same people at EPA who are already in the tank for the Paris Agreement and are convinced that this is the end of the world. If you're going to have a debate, you've got to have two sides."

The institute, a free-market advocacy group, has petitioned the EPA to undo the greenhouse gas endangerment finding.

"All of these issues have been discussed in great detail in the [Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change], outside the IPCC, in the literature, in the policy world. I think there's nothing new that would come out," D. James Baker, director of forest and land-use measurement at the Clinton Climate Initiative and past administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, told Bloomberg BNA. "All of the issues have been discussed in detail. We know what carbon dioxide does: It warms the atmosphere."

Court Revives EPA Methane Regulation on Oil, Gas Drillers

Posted July 03, 2017, 01:32 P.M. ET

By David Schultz

A federal appeals court has revived an Obama-era EPA methane regulation on the oil and gas industry after the Trump administration tried to place it on hold.

This means oil and gas drillers may have to comply with this regulation despite earlier indications they wouldn't have to.

The regulation at issue requires oil and gas drillers to boost their monitoring for leaking methane, a potent greenhouse gas. It was enacted in the final months of the Obama administration as part of its Climate Action Plan.

Earlier this year, the Environmental Protection Agency announced that it will reconsider this regulation and moved to place its upcoming compliance deadlines on hold. A three-judge panel in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit, however, ruled July 3 that the EPA could not impose a three-month delay on implementing the regulation, which means its upcoming compliance deadlines may go into effect after all.

Obama in Indonesia Takes Swipe at Trump on Paris Climate Accord

Posted July 03, 2017, 8:40 A.M. ET

By Karlis Salna

Former U.S. President Barack Obama has pointed to the importance of the Paris climate accord while criticizing Donald Trump for pulling the world's biggest economy out of the pact.

Trump said last month he would withdraw from the pact and seek to negotiate a better deal, in a move that attracted widespread criticism from counterparts in Europe and elsewhere. The decision by Trump to walk away from the 2015 agreement was also criticized by business leaders, with some describing it as a setback for the environment.

"In Paris, we came together around the most ambitious agreement in history to fight climate change," Obama said July 1 in a speech at the opening of the Fourth Congress of the Indonesian Diaspora in Jakarta. He said it was "an agreement that even with the temporary absence of American leadership will still give our children a fighting chance."

"The challenges of our times, whether it's economic inequality, changing climate, terrorism, mass migration; these are really challenges and we're going to have to confront them together," he said.

Obama, who has been holidaying in Indonesia and on June 30 met with President Joko Widodo, also warned in remarks July 1 against rising sectarian politics around the world, as well as growing discrimination based on race and ethnicity.

"There are going to be some big decisions to make about Indonesia and about the United States and about the world in the years to come," he said. "It's been clear for a while that the world is at a crossroads, at an inflection point."

He said in Jakarta there had been "enormous progress" which had occurred "in part because of the stability that the United States helped support here in the Asia Pacific."

Global Challenges

But the former president said there are also challenges, and that globalization and technology had created problems and "shifts in the foundations of societies" and in politics both in developing and developed countries.

"The world is more prosperous than ever before, but this has also brought significant changes that are dangerous."

"We start seeing a rise in sectarian politics, we start seeing a rise in an aggressive kind of nationalism, we start seeing both in developed and developing countries an increased resentment about minority groups and the bad treatment of people who don't look like us or practice the same faith as us."

"We start seeing discrimination against people based on race or ethnicity or religion." Those threats must be confronted, Obama said.

Obama, who spent four years in Indonesia as a child, met with Widodo, known as Jokowi, at Bogor on the outskirts of the capital. "I always found Jokowi to be a man of quiet but firm integrity and somebody who sincerely wants what's right by all Indonesians," he said.

Their meeting touched on issues such as infrastructure and economic development, according to Obama, who said July 1 that the U.S. and Indonesia shared the common values of "pluralism and tolerance and openness and rule of law."

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Justices Deny Town Review of Fired Cop's Free Speech Claim

Posted January 17, 2017, 11:05 A.M. ET

By Kevin McGowan

The U.S. Supreme Court Jan. 17 declined to review a Louisiana town's contention that it didn't violate the First Amendment when it fired a local police officer who aided the FBI in a federal probe of town leaders (Town of Ball, La. v. Howell, U.S., No. 16-631, review denied 1/17/17).

The town of Ball, La., sought review of a federal appeals court decision allowing Thomas Howell to pursue a First Amendment retaliation claim.

The fired officer claimed his statements to the FBI about the town's alleged fraud in applying for federal emergency funds were constitutionally protected speech. The town argued that Howell's speech was part of his "ordinary" job duties and therefore lacked First Amendment protection.

Denial of review means the justices won't decide the oft-litigated issue of whether public employees are speaking as citizens on matters of public concern or as employees performing their official job duties.

Man on a Wire.

At the FBI's request, Howell wore a wire to record conversations in which the mayor and other officials discussed their bids for federal aid after two hurricanes. The FBI suspected fraud in the town's applications. Ball's mayor, police chief and four other town officials ultimately pleaded guilty

to federal charges.

Howell later was fired for purported insubordination. He alleged he actually was terminated for assisting the FBI. A district court dismissed his First Amendment retaliation claim, but the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit revived it.

Broad Job Duties.

The Supreme Court has ruled that public employees lack First Amendment protection when speaking as part of their official duties. It said defining an employee's official duties is a "practical inquiry" focused on tasks an employee "actually is expected to perform."

The justices should resolve whether a local police officer sworn to uphold federal laws engages in First Amendment-protected speech by aiding an FBI investigation or if such conduct is unprotected because it falls within his broad job duties, Ball urged.

Howell waived his right to oppose review.

Borne Wilkes & Rabalais LLC represented the town. Broussard Halcomb & Vizzier represented Howell.

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Energy and Climate Report

To: Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
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Subject: June 26 -- Energy and Climate Report

Energy and Climate Report

June 26, 2017 - Number 122

News

Climate Change
China 'Future Proofing' for Climate Change, Researcher Says
China is among the few countries preparing for a day when some coastal populations may need to move inland due to rising sea levels, according to a Cornell University study.

Corporate Responsibility
European Companies to Report Environmental Risks in 2018
Companies operating in the European Union can lean on non-binding guidance published by the European Commission June 26 when meeting an obligation to begin reporting environmental and social information starting in 2018.

Energy
Quorum Assured at Nuclear Regulatory Commission; Senate Approves Svinicki
The Senate June 26 approved Nuclear Regulatory Commission Chairman Kristine Svinicki for a third term at the agency, just days before her current term expired.

Energy
Tariffs on Solar Panels Seen Slowing Industry Growth by 66%
A trade complaint asking the Trump administration to impose tariffs on solar panels could devastate the U.S. industry, wiping out two-thirds of solar systems forecast to be installed over the next five years, according to a Jund 26 report by GTM Research.

Enforcement
EPA Targets Colorado Oil, Gas Firm in Early Enforcement Action
A Colorado oil and gas firm failed to control air pollution emissions from storage tanks throughout the Denver-Julesburg Basin, the EPA said in a lawsuit alleging violations of the Clean Air Act.

Environmental Justice
Former Environmental Justice Official's Records Sought in Lawsuit
A free-market advocacy group wants to know if a former EPA official has unduly influenced the agency's environmental justice work since leaving the Obama administration.

Natural Gas
Cheniere's LNG Market Share Expands as Korea Contract Starts
Add South Korea to the growing list of regulars buying America's shale gas.

Radioactive Waste

House Panel to Mark Up Yucca Mountain Nuclear Waste Bill

The House Energy and Commerce Committee will mark up legislation June 28 that would restart efforts to make Yucca Mountain the U.S. permanent repository for nuclear waste.

Renewable Energy

China Says Qinghai Province Beats Portugal's Clean-Power Record

The Chinese province of Qinghai in the nation's northwest set a record by using clean energy for seven continuous days, surpassing the previous title-holder Portugal.

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Energy and Climate Report

To: Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
From: Anna Palmer Jake Sherman Daniel Lippman
Sent: Fri 7/7/2017 10:55:42 AM
Subject: POLITICO Playbook, presented by Postmates: CRUZ rises in healthcare debate -- WASHINGTON PRESS descends on PALCO, KANSAS, as repeal looks further away -- PUTIN-TRUMP meet at 9:45 -- 'HIGH ANXIETY' at CNN -- VANESSA MORRONE and MICHAEL AMBROSINI engaged

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Today's POLITICO Playbook presented by Postmates
07/07/2017 06:52 AM EDT

By ANNA PALMER (anna@politico.com; @apalmerdc), JAKE SHERMAN (sherman@politico.com; @JakeSherman) and DANIEL LIPPMAN (daniel@politico.com; @dlippman)

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Driving the Day

YIKES - 5:39 a.m.: "PARIS (AP) - Paris prosecutors investigating suspected irregularities in Macron trip to Las Vegas when he was government minister." http://bit.ly/2txe2gV

Happy Friday. IF YOU TALK PRIVATELY to most Hill Republicans, they'll tell you they're in a jam on Obamacare and don't know how -- or if -- they'll get out of it. Forget tax reform by the end of the year for the moment and let's resurface in reality: Republicans are having a hard time repealing and replacing Obamacare after a half-dozen years of promises.

MOVE THE BILL TO THE RIGHT, you lose moderates, move it to the left, conservatives dash and, either way, when they send it to the House, it faces an uncertain future. **AND NOW,** Sen. Ted Cruz is rising. His plan is under consideration and is expected to be scored for budgetary impact by the Congressional Budget Office, one of many signs it is in play in the healthcare debate, according to multiple sources involved. It basically allows insurers to sell non-Obamacare compliant plans, which would -- if you listen to the provisions' supporters -- economically devastate the Affordable Care Act.

-- HOT DOC: Check out how Cruz is explaining his amendment. http://politi.co/2sNfAX0

-- WHAT CONSERVATIVES THINK : A top conservative on the Hill: "The first round of the health care fight revealed the votes to fully repeal Obamacare just do not exist in the House and Senate -- despite six years of campaign promises. Now conservatives are uniting behind an amendment that they say could effectively undo Obamacare through

the marketplace since the votes aren't there to do it legislatively. Ted Cruz's amendment would allow HHS to grant waivers to states that allows insurance companies to offer an unlimited number of non-ACA compliant health plans if they also offer at least one 'qualified health plan' (QHP) in both silver and gold coverage levels. Conservatives say this will result in substantially lower premiums and more choice for consumers. Opponents -- and conservatives behind closed doors -- say it will effectively kill what's left of the ACA economically."

-- THE MATH : It's hard to see how Mitch McConnell threads the needle here. He needs opponents like Sen. Dean Heller (R-Nev.) and skeptics like Sen. Susan Collins (R-Maine) to switch their votes. And even if Sen. Ted Cruz is in play, McConnell will have to find a way to get his home state Sen. Rand Paul (R-Ky.) on board. Paul, who is holding side talks with the president, was never truly thought to be in play for the GOP.

CASE IN POINT -- WASHINGTON MEDIA DESCENDS ON PALCO, KANSAS, TO HEAR FROM JERRY MORAN -- POLITICO'S SEUNG MIN KIM: "Moran gets an earful on Obamacare repeal at town hall" http://politi.co/2txdzLG ... **WAPO'S DAVE WEIGEL:** "A town hall in Kansas shows Republican struggles with health-care bill" http://wapo.st/2sNEiqn ... **NYT'S TOM KAPLAN:** "Unlikely Holdout Underscores Challenge for Senate Health Bill" http://nyti.ms/2swDSQT

... **AND LOCAL MEDIA TOO -- KANSAS CITY STAR'S BRYAN LOWRY:** "Packed town hall in Palco, Kan., urges Moran to stand firm against GOP health bill" http://bit.ly/2tYBxT9 ... **WICHITA EAGLE'S JONATHAN SHORMAN** : "National health debate swirls around Moran at town hall" http://bit.ly/2to3sKB

-- SEUNG MIN KIM: "[M]oran ... rattled off a litany of concerns with the Senate GOP plan ... stressing to an overflow crowd in this tiny rural town that he would not support the existing draft as written. During a town hall in this largely conservative area, Moran called it 'troublesome' that Kansas, which did not expand Medicaid under Obamacare, would under the GOP plan have to help shoulder the entitlement's costs in states that did. Moran also raised concerns about 'people with disabilities, the frail and elderly' when it came to potential changes to Medicaid, a program that Moran said 'has significant value.'

"Still, he made clear his opposition to Obamacare, telling the crowd of about 150 people that after visiting all 127 hospitals in the state, 'there is not a hospital that I could find in Kansas that is financially better off as a result of the Affordable Care Act.' But he also danced away from the 'full repeal' rhetoric that has dominated the Republican Party in the seven years since Obamacare was signed into law. 'The Affordable Care Act creates significant difficulties that still need major attention,' Moran told reporters after the town hall. 'But I think at this point, it's time to figure out how ... to get rid of the bad things and improve on the things that need to be improved.'" http://politi.co/2txdzLG

-- SMK'S TAKEAWAY: "[I]n this rural northwestern Kansas town, Moran stresses that coverage for preexisting conditions have to be protected. He rails against the decision

by his own leadership to draft its Obamacare repeal measure almost entirely in private. The genial senator even steers away from derisively referring to the 2010 health care law as Obamacare, instead using its official term: The Affordable Care Act. ...

"He also veered off the party message by saying that he would have preferred a process to 'figure out where there are 60 votes to pass something that is so important to many Americans,' implicitly rejecting the partisan fast-track approach GOP leaders deployed. It's 'almost impossible to try to solve' the Republicans' health care dilemma with just 50 votes, Moran added." http://politi.co/2sNyk8S

-- NOTE: If Jerry Moran is truly a holdout -- and it sure sounds like he is, from SMK's reporting -- it's real difficult to see how an Obamacare repeal passes the Senate. Moran won his last election with 70 percent of the vote, and his principal political hurdle -- generally speaking -- would be a primary challenge. The town hall was in Rooks County, Seung Min writes, which "gave Trump 84 percent of the vote." Yet he sounds ***very*** skittish about repealing the law.

-- "Rand and Donald's wild health care ride: Rand Paul and Donald Trump have gone back and forth on an Obamacare repeal strategy, repeatedly undermining GOP leadership's plans," by Burgess Everett and Josh Dawsey. http://politi.co/2swqfBr

THE BACKUP PLAN -- "McConnell says GOP must shore up ACA insurance markets if Senate bill dies," by WaPo's Juliet Eilperin and Amy Goldstein: "Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) said Thursday that if his party fails to muster 50 votes for its plan to rewrite the Affordable Care Act, it will have no choice but to draft a more modest bill with Democrats to support the law's existing insurance markets. The remarks, made at a Rotary Club lunch in Glasgow, Ky., represent a significant shift for the veteran legislator. While he had raised the idea last week that Republicans may have to turn to Democrats if they cannot pass their own bill, his words mark the first time he has explicitly raised the prospect of shoring up the ACA.

'"If my side is unable to agree on an adequate replacement, then some kind of action with regard to the private health insurance market must occur,' McConnell said. 'No action is not an alternative. We've got the insurance markets imploding all over the country, including in this state.'" http://wapo.st/2tPunjJ

TIM PHILLIPS INTERVIEW -- "Koch brothers political chief: Health care effort a 'disappointment'" http://cbsn.ws/2uxurlH ... "We're not 'beholden' to GOP lawmakers" http://cbsn.ws/2tOIZju

SCALISE UPDATE: "Scalise undergoes surgery for infection," by Rachael Bade: "House Majority Whip Steve Scalise, the Louisiana Republican shot at a congressional baseball practice three weeks ago, underwent surgery to manage growing infection in his wounds, his doctors said Thursday. Scalise's medical team at MedStar Washington Hospital Center had downgraded his status from 'fair' to 'serious' on Wednesday night after the infection was discovered. He was readmitted into the Intensive Care Unit for

close monitoring.

"Scalise 'tolerated the procedure well,' his medical team said Thursday evening, adding that he 'remains in serious condition.' During a press conference several days after the shooting, Scalise's medical team said they expected the congressman would be confronted with such infection at some point during his recovery." http://politi.co/2svn24O

PALACE INTRIGUE -- "Trump's leaks crackdown sends chills through national security world," by Ali Watkins and Josh Dawsey: "National security officials across the federal government say they are seeing new restrictions on who can access sensitive information, fueling fears in the intelligence and security community that the Trump administration has stepped up a stealthy operation to smoke out leakers. Officials at various national security agencies also say they are becoming more concerned that the administration is carefully tracking what they're doing and who they're talking to - then plotting to use them as a scapegoat or accuse them of leaks.

"One U.S. official voiced concern over even talking to their superiors about a benign call from a reporter. The agency this official works for had started limiting staff's access to information, they said, and it would make it far easier to figure out who was talking to people in the media. There was suspicion, the official said, that the agency was even tracking what they printed, to keep tabs on what information they were accessing. ... A half dozen officials across the national security community described to POLITICO a series of subtle and no-so-subtle changes that have led to an increasingly tense and paranoid working environment rooted in the White House's obsession with leaks." http://politi.co/2swKApU

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IT'S HAPPENING -- TRUMP-PUTIN AT 9:45 A.M. -- "Trump readies for his turn with Putin," by Michael Crowley: "Last week, National Security Adviser H.R. McMaster said Trump would come to the meeting with 'no specific agenda,' sparking concern among Russia experts and former U.S. officials that Putin, a former KGB officer who recruited spies, might have an upper hand to manipulate Trump. 'The biggest challenge in these meetings is Putin's tendency to try to run out the clock with history lessons and litanies of Russian grievances, so you're constantly playing defense. The art is absorbing this, pushing back on the rhetoric only where essential, and then shifting to the topics you actually want addressed. That's why going in without an agenda is so damaging,' said Jon Finer, who served as chief of staff to former Secretary of State John Kerry and has attended meetings with the Russian leader. 'It's a recipe not just wasting time, but having the entire conversation on his topics and his terms,' Finer added.

"The two men are scheduled to meet for 30 minutes, and will reportedly be accompanied only by their top diplomats -- Secretary of State Rex Tillerson and Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov -- and translators." http://politi.co/2sTRPrr

TRUMP AND PUTIN briefly shook hands this morning, per the AP, quoting a Kremlin official.

NEIL MACFARQUHAR: "For Russia, Trump-Putin Meeting Is a Sure Winner": http://nyti.ms/2tTAZx9

-- IVO DAALDER , former U.S. ambassador to NATO (**@IvoHDaalder):** "Total government experience in the room? Russia: 80+ years US: Less than 12 months".

--@philipoltermann: "White House says Trump to meet Putin @ 3:45 [local time today], which means they have to skip 3:30 meeting with rest of G20 on climate change & energy".

-- "Russians Are Said to Be Suspects in Nuclear Site Hackings," by Bloomberg's Michael Riley, Jennifer A. Dlouhy, and Bryan Gruley: "Hackers working for a foreign government recently breached at least a dozen U.S. power plants, including the Wolf Creek nuclear facility in Kansas, according to current and former U.S. officials, sparking concerns the attackers were searching for vulnerabilities in the electrical grid. The rivals could be positioning themselves to eventually disrupt the nation's power supply, warned the officials, who noted that a general alert was distributed to utilities a week ago. Adding to those concerns, hackers recently infiltrated an unidentified company that makes control systems for equipment used in the power industry, an attack that officials believe may be related. The chief suspect is Russia." https://bloom.bg/2swu3CG

-- HAARETZ'S BARAK RAVID: "Israel Tells U.S. It Doesn't Want Russia Policing Safe Zones in Southern Syria": "An American envoy came to Israel two weeks ago and held talks with senior Israeli officials about establishing de-escalation zones, otherwise known as safe zones, in southern Syria near the Israeli and Jordanian borders as part of an effort to end Syria's civil war.

"Israel told Washington that it opposes having Russian forces supervise what happens in these zones, senior Israeli officials said. The idea of establishing de-escalation zones arose after U.S. President Donald Trump took office in January. Both the White House and the Kremlin have pushed this idea as a way to end the civil war. In early April, Haaretz reported that Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu expressed receptiveness to the idea to both Washington and Moscow, viewing it as a way to keep Iran and Hezbollah away from Israel's border." http://bit.ly/2to75jO

MEANWHILE... -- "U.S., other G-20 nations near compromise on climate," by Andrew Restuccia: "The United States and other major economies are nearing a compromise on climate change, one of the thorniest issues facing world leaders at the G-20 summit in Germany. After days of preliminary talks, G-20 negotiators are

increasingly hopeful they can settle on a joint communique in which the United States underscores its intent to withdraw from the Paris climate agreement while the other nations emphasize their support for the pact, according to a senior diplomat involved in the discussions.

"Diplomats stressed that the text remains fluid and could be rewritten at the insistence of President Donald Trump and other world leaders, who will join the closed-door discussions in Hamburg over the next 48 hours. But if it holds, the unity among the 19 other members of the G-20 would be a coup for German Chancellor Angela Merkel and other leaders who support strong action to tackle climate change. And it would further isolate the United States on the issue, underscoring that it is one of the few countries in the world that don't back the 2015 Paris deal." http://politi.co/2uQ5Est

REALITY CHECK -- "CNN parent's $85B deal at little risk from Trump," by Steven Overly and Margaret Harding McGill: "President Donald Trump has only limited tools for venting his often-expressed fury at CNN, even as his administration weighs whether to approve AT&T's bid to purchase the network's parent company, Time Warner. Chief Trump strategist Steve Bannon has pushed the idea of blocking the merger, a White House official told POLITICO on Thursday, after months in which the president has accused the news network of airing 'fake' and 'dishonest' coverage of his administration. But the official added that Bannon hasn't mentioned the matter in recent days and that it does not appear to be at the top of his agenda.

"And many industry observers say Trump's Justice Department has no obvious antitrust arguments for blocking AT&T's $85 billion deal, which would give the telecom and wireless giant control of an entertainment conglomerate whose holdings include CNN, HBO and the Warner Bros. movie studio. 'Just because you don't like CNN doesn't mean you can block a merger,' said Rich Greenfield, a media and tech analyst at the investment research firm BTIG. 'You still need a legal basis, and calling CNN 'fake news' or 'FNN' doesn't make the transaction illegal.'" http://politi.co/2suXC7G

-- "High Anxiety at CNN Amid Attacks From Trump and His Trolls," by The Daily Beast's Lloyd Grove: "The parents and wife of Andrew Kaczynski, author of the GIF story and leader of CNN's investigative K-File team, had received around 50 harassing phone calls each by Wednesday while other K-File team members had ugly messages -- apparently from Trump supporters -- left at their homes. 'The only thing I worry about is somebody getting hurt,' a CNN insider told The Daily Beast ... 'These far-right trolls are really threatening people and coming after people. Somebody's gonna do something stupid at some point. 'People really, really worry about the safety of all the prominent people who represent us on the air, and the people who are breaking news they don't like, or people in senior management ... I fear for all of them." http://thebea.st/2tY9Bih

-- FROM MORNING MEDIA -- BEN SMITH emails Joe Pompeo: "'It makes me sick that they're not out there defending a great reporter who is taking all the heat for them. Editors need to have reporters' backs, and to take responsibility for screw-ups. This, and the recent firings' -- for the record, officially they were resignations -- 'send a terrible

signal to reporters who are trying to do their jobs.' (A CNN rep last night didn't return an email asking if they'd like to respond.)"

-- FIRST PERSON -- "I Found HanAssholeSolo's anti-Semitic Posts. Then, the Death Threats Started. This is what it's like to report on extremism in the Trump era," by Jared Yates Sexton in POLITICO Magazine: http://politi.co/2tPCAEG

ON CAPITOL WARDROBE GATE -- There has been a lot of back and forth over the dress code in and around the House floor, which mandates a jacket, tie and pants for men, and covered shoulders and closed-toed shoes for women. No one loves getting dressed up. We all hang out in the Speaker's Lobby -- where the dress code is enforced -- and, yes, it's a pain sometimes to have to dress a certain way. It's the Capitol of the United States, so everyone tolerates it. We have nearly unfettered access to the building and to lawmakers. It's pretty awesome.

This is a rule that's long been in place and has been enforced pretty consistently in the decade we've been covering Congress. (If you forget your tie, pull a Matt Fuller and grab a member in the hallway). It's not Paul Ryan's fault -- the guy has other stuff to worry about. The same rules apply to how members of Congress dress, but it's a lot more difficult to scold an elected official about his or her garb than it is to scold a reporter. ***The original CBS story*** http://cbsn.ws/2sNUdF8

Playbook Reads

PHOTO DU JOUR: The Springfield Fire Dept. and the Hazardous Materials Unit exit the Illinois Governor's office after after a woman threw a powdery substance during the overtime session at the Illinois State Capitol on July 6 in Springfield. | Justin L. Fowler/The State Journal-Register via AP

CLINTON PROBES CONTINUE -- "Loretta Lynch denies offering assurances to Clinton campaign over email probe," by Austin Wright: "Former Attorney General Loretta Lynch pledged Thursday to cooperate with a Senate Judiciary Committee investigation into whether she assured the Hillary Clinton campaign last year that the FBI probe into Clinton's emails wouldn't go too far. In a statement from her lawyer, Lynch also denied ever making such an assurance to a former Clinton campaign aide, Amanda Renteria - an allegation fueled by a Russian intelligence memo that's credibility has been called into question." http://politi.co/2uwp4TH

KAMALA HARRIS IN TODAY'S NYT -- "Senator, (Un)Interrupted: Kamala Harris's Rise Among Democrats," by Matt Flegenheimer: "California's very junior senator has emerged as the latest iteration of a bipartisan archetype: the Great Freshman Hope, a telegenic object of daydreaming projection - justified or not - for a party adrift and removed from executive power. ... Like the Senate newcomers Barack Obama or Marco

Rubio before her, Ms. Harris - a 52-year-old former prosecutor with a profane streak, a lawyerly aversion to 'false choices' and an affection for the rapper Too Short - has insisted that national aspirations are far from her mind. Like those men, she has not exactly ruled out the possibility, either.

"Unlike those men, she is not a man, a fact that has figured prominently in her introduction to mass audiences in a recurring (and highly rated) television series: Senate Intelligence Committee Hearing Into Possible Trump Ties to Russia. Twice recently, Ms. Harris's pointed questions and interjections during long-winded witness testimony have prompted uncommon interruptions from Republican colleagues, John McCain of Arizona and Richard M. Burr of North Carolina, the committee chairman, urging her to let the officials answer. In the outsize fallout, her supporters have questioned whether a white male senator would have been confronted the same way." http://nyti.ms/2uRBKUq

POLITICO MAGAZINE FRIDAY COVER - WHAT MARIA COMELLA IS READING - "Andrew Cuomo Could Beat Trump: But he'll have to win over the left first," by David Freedlander: "Cuomo looks very much like someone doing the spadework to run for president. His speeches ... are increasingly laced with the kind of Big Themes that become the rhetorical cornerstones of presidential campaigns. He rails against Washington, contrasting the gridlock of Congress against his own relatively smooth management of the previously dysfunctional statehouse, the misplaced priorities of national Republicans against the steady progress he has made in Albany. Over the past several months, Cuomo has hired Chris Christie's former chief of staff, a move widely seen as further burnishing his own bipartisan credentials; his aides have reached out to out-of-state donors about a possible fundraising swing later this year." http://politi.co/2tPBwAD

ISAAC DOVERE talks to **JULIE PACE** and **PETER BAKER:** "With the president posting a fantasy video of wrestling with CNN, Isaac Dovere sat down for Friday's Off Message podcast with White House press corps vets Julie Pace of the AP and Peter Baker of the New York Times to talk about wrestling with the beat. Is Trump's war with the media all just theatrics? Pace: 'I don't think it's a show in the sense that I do think that they see this as part of the agenda. This is something that they believe is central to Trump's success, is to try to undermine negative coverage about him.'

"Is this really so different from Obama and other presidents who've hated their press coverage? Baker: 'This is not the first president who thought all this. This is the first president perhaps who's said it so loudly. This is basically the Nixon tapes as if they were played live on television every day, or on Twitter.' How should reporters respond when the president goads them? Pace: 'Every time, we make it about us, every time one of us becomes the face of the fight, I think we fail-because we lose the whole point of what we're doing.'

"Could it lead to actual violence, like the shooting that put Steve Scalise and others in the hospital? Baker: 'There's no reason to think that it couldn't happen, just like it

happened on that baseball field. And that was by a liberal who was upset at Republicans. It could happen the exact opposite way, and it could happen with reporters as well.'" http://politi.co/2uxzLp4 ... ***Listen to the full podcast*** http://apple.co/2e2dLvm

****** **A message from Postmates:** Operating in over 200 cities across the United States - Postmates is an innovative, on-demand logistics platform, transforming the way goods move around towns by enabling anyone to have anything delivered to their door step within minutes, and driving over $1B in goods and merchandise across its platform in 2017. https://postmates.com ******

MEDIAWATCH - "Fox suspends business news host Charles Payne amid sexual harassment allegations," by LA Times' Stephen Battaglio: "Payne's suspension was announced by Fox Business Network following his program 'Making Money,' and shortly after the Los Angeles Times first reported the investigation. ... Payne, who hosts 'Making Money' on the network and appears on various other programs, has acknowledged what he described as a three-year 'romantic relationship' with a married female political analyst who frequently appeared on Fox Business Network and Fox News Channel from 2013 to 2016. Payne admitted to the extramarital affair in a statement to the National Enquirer published Wednesday that included an apology to his wife, children and friends." http://lat.ms/2txn6m8

--"Conservative Analyst Scottie Nell Hughes Accuses Fox Business Host of Sexual Harassment," by Yashar Ali in HuffPost: "Hughes has told several sources that she feels that Payne, the network and Bill Shine ??? then co-president of Fox News and Fox Business ??? retaliated against her after they learned of the relationship, which would be the basis for her sexual harassment claim." http://bit.ly/2toqnFU

--"NBC's Richard Engel steps out with themed series," by AP's David Bauder: "Foreign correspondent Richard Engel is borrowing Rachel Maddow's MSNBC time slot on Friday nights over the next month for 'On Assignment,' a series that sets aside cable news chatter for deeply reported stories about world affairs. The first edition this week focuses on Vladimir Putin's Russia, using the news hook of Putin's meeting Friday with President Donald Trump." http://bit.ly/2tPrRdf ... ***Preview*** http://on.msnbc.com/2uwxavO

Playbookers

ENGAGED! -- Michael Ambrosini, the director of the White House chief of staff's office, proposed to **Vanessa Morrone,** adviser to the White House press secretary. Michael flew Vanessa's family to her childhood home in Kenosha, Wisconsin, and proposed in front of them with a Tony Bennett song playing in the background. A Bennett concert was their first date three summers ago. They then celebrated at Vanessa's favorite restaurant in Milwaukee. The couple first met through Reince Priebus a few summers ago while he was briefly back home visiting Kenosha. ***Pic*** http://bit.ly/2sQF5lm

OUT AND ABOUT -- National Geographic had a shark-tagging trip in Cape Cod with NBC's Jenna Bush Hager. She and her crew rode the boat with National Geographic shark expert Brian Skerry and Greg Skomal. They also tagged a shark off of Cape Cod and named it "Jenna." **SPOTTED** at the afternoon party reception at the Wequassett Resort and Golf Club: Laura Nichols, Molly Mulrain, Brad Roberts, Chris Albert, Michael and Meghan Meehan.

TRANSITIONS: Phillip Mena, former correspondent for ABC News, is joining NBC News and MSNBC where he will co-anchor "Early Today" with Frances Rivera and be a fill-in host on weekends for MSNBC. ... **Michael Burns** starts on Monday, July 17 as Rep. Nita Lowey's (D-N.Y.) communications director. He was previously with Rep. Donald Payne, Jr.'s (D-N.J.) office.

OUT AND ABOUT -- British Ambassador Sir Kim Darroch hosted a farewell reception for the embassy's political counsellor Susannah Goshko and head of communications Michael Hoare at the Ambassador's Residence on Thursday evening. Both are returning to London at the end of the summer. ***Pic*** http://bit.ly/2tPvwHQ **SPOTTED:** Anne Gearan, Peter Cook, Margie Omero, Ben Chang, Phil Rucker, Robert Costa, Maggie Dougherty, Marty Obst, Josh Pitcock, Scott Milburn, Sergio Gor, Missy Owen.

SUNDAY SO FAR -- "Fox News Sunday": Sen. Bill Cassidy (R-La.). Panel: Brit Hume, Donna Edwards, Newt Gingrich, Juan Williams

--NBC's "Meet the Press": Sen. Lindsey Graham (R-S.C.) ... DNC Chair Tom Perez and RNC Chair Ronna McDaniel. Panel: Ruth Marcus, Kristen Welker, Rich Lowry, Robert Costa

- CBS' "Face the Nation": Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.) ... former Dallas Police Chief David Brown ... Panel: Margaret Brennan, David Ignatius, Michael Crowley and David Nakamura ... Victor Cha

--ABC's "This Week": Treasury Secretary Steve Mnuchin ... Walter Shaub. Panel: Rep. Tom Cole (R-Okla.), Rep. Eric Swalwell (D-Calif.), Jason Riley, Katrina vanden Heuvel

--CNN's "State of the Union," guest-anchored by Dana Bash: Ash Carter. Panel: Jen Psaki, former Sen. Rick Santorum, Nina Turner, Rep. Scott Taylor (R-Va.)

--CNN's "Inside Politics," hosted by John King: Michael Shear, Karoun Demirjian, Mary Katharine Ham, Jeff Zeleny

--CNN's "Fareed Zakaria GPS": Elliott Abrams, Anne Applebaum, Ian Bremmer, Anne-Marie Slaughter ... Sergey Karaganov ... David Rubenstein

BIRTHDAY OF THE DAY: Nia-Malika Henderson, CNN senior political reporter. How

she's celebrating: "I will spend my birthday in London with my girlfriend. We plan on shopping, eating and checking out touristy places like Buckingham Palace and the Wimbledon scene." Read her Playbook Plus Q&A: http://politi.co/2uRuvfv

BIRTHDAYS: Michelle Kwan ... Dick Armey is 77 ... CAP's Rachel Rosen ... author David McCullough is 84 ... Luther Lowe, Yelp's VP of public policy, who recently played a starring role in a big NYT Sunday Business NYT cover story on Yelp's battle with Google http://nyti.ms/2stdBmy ... Bill Lord ... Jason Raymond ... Rep. Judy Chu is 64 (D-Calif.) ... Madelyn Beck, reporter for Inside Energy (hat tip: Amy Sisk) ... Rachael Leman, executive director of CARE Action ... Amanda Maddox, comms director for Sen. Johnny Isakson ... Susan Pelter ... Julie Xie ... Terry Camp ... Eleanor Clift ... Nikki Harris ... Politico alum Molly Jay ... Robin Doody is 25 (h/t sister Clare) ... Ed Kaleta, VP of federal gov't relations and head of Walgreens DC office ... Mike Rigas, chief of staff at the Mass. Dept. of Veterans Affairs and President Trump's nominee to be deputy director of OPM (h/t Ed Cash) ...

... Andy Manatos, president of Manatos & Manatos ... Israeli business mogul Yitzhak Tshuva is 69 (h/t Jewish Insider) ... Nicole Eynard, DCCC deputy executive director and a McCaskill and Specter alum (h/t Ian Russell) ... Amanda Crumley, former Vilsack, Warner and WH alum (h/t Jon Haber) ... Marti Adams Baker of the Brunswick Group and a De Blasio alum ... Melisse Morris, VP at BlackRock ... Roselle Chartock ... Randy James, senior manager at Sugerman Communications in L.A. ... Kathy Roeder ... Felix Thomas Morgan ... Larry Van Dyne is 72 ... Michael Hudome ... Larry Irving ... Maria H. Keech LeGrand ... Justin Crockett Elzie ... Travis Rundlet ... Jim Bell of TTR Sotheby's ... Blake Vilmain ... Dan Hunter ... Craig Trost ... Patrick Dillon ... Luke Bauer ... Linda Olsen (h/ts Teresa Vilmain) ... Ringo Starr is 77 (h/t AP)

****** **A message from Postmates:** With its fleet of Postmates earning taxable incomes, the capital generated through the mobile application is being reinvested in the economy to do everything from pay down debt, to start a small business, or even enroll in college classes. As On Demand platforms shape the future of work, Postmates applauds legislation aimed at experimenting with portable benefits models, and calls for new federal and local skill-based investments to account for the impact of automation on the workforce. https://postmates.com ******

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CORRECTION: The correct headline is: EPA chief says ready to further relax fuel standards due to hurricanes. http://reut.rs/2gPEyju

REUTERS

EPA Chief Says Ready To Further Relax Fuel Standards Due To Hurricanes

Valerie Volcovici
Reuters
September 7, 2017
https://www.reuters.com/article/us-storm-irma-epa/epa-chief-says-ready-to-further-relax-fuel-standards-due-to-hurricanes-idUSKCN1BJ01S

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is preparing for Hurricane Irma's landfall on the U.S. East Coast by securing vulnerable toxic waste sites and easing gasoline standards to ensure steady fuel supplies, its chief told Reuters on Thursday. ...

"The most we can do is help people in these areas by monitoring drinking water and respond to real and tangible issues," he said in a brief telephone interview.

Hurricane Irma is expected to make landfall in Florida as early as Friday after slamming Caribbean islands with 185 mph winds, only days after Hurricane Harvey triggered record flooding in Texas that killed scores of people.

The EPA said has issued waivers on certain federal requirements for the sale, production and blending of gasoline to avoid supply shortfalls in the aftermath of Harvey and as Hurricane Irma approaches Florida.

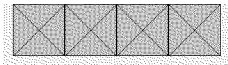
Pruitt said he spoke with Florida Governor Rick Scott about potentially issuing more waivers on gasoline requirements if the need arises after Irma.

"EPA will grant additional waivers if requested," he said.

He said the agency is also evaluating 80 Superfund toxic waste sites from Florida to North Carolina to identify those at risk of flooding.

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Subject: June 13 -- EHS State Regulatory Alert

EHS State Regulatory Alert

June 13, 2017 - Number 112

You can create a report customized by topic, jurisdiction, and date range by using the Regulatory Summaries Report Tool. The report can be generated in Excel, Word, or PDF.

Pennsylvania

WATER
Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Programs
Pennsylvania WATER

Notice of the Department of Environmental Protection and the Infrastructure Investment Authority announces the availability of fiscal year 2017 Intended Use Plans (IUP) under the clean water and drinking water state revolving fund programs. The IUP provides a list of drinking water, wastewater treatment, nonpoint source and pollution abatement projects to be considered for a design and engineering or construction loan or grant under the programs. A meeting is scheduled for June 28, 2017, in Harrisburg. Comments are due July 10, 2017. Contact: Jay Patel; DEP, Division of Municipal Facilities; 717-705-4090; jaypatel@pa.gov

—Pennsylvania Bulletin (06/10/2017)

Regulatory Update

Tennessee

AIR
Volatile Organic Compounds/Gasoline Dispensing Facilities
Tennessee AIR

Final rule of the Department of Environment and Conservation, Air Pollution Control, amends regulations under RRT 1200-03-18-.24 concerning volatile organic compound (VOC) reporting requirements for gasoline dispensing facilities. The rule requires gasoline dispensing facilities in Anderson, Blount, Davidson, Knox, Rutherford, Shelby, Sumner, Williamson, and Wilson counties that emit 25 tons or more of VOCs during a calendar year to report specified emissions to their permitting authority. The rule also updates provisions concerning exemptions from gasoline dispensing facility reporting requirements to reflect federal requirements under 40 CFR 63,

Subpart CCCCCC. The rule is effective Aug. 31, 2017. Contact: Travis Blake; DEC; Air Pollution Control; 615-532-0617; travis.blake@tn.gov

—Tennessee Administrative Register (06/08/2017)

Regulatory Update

Virginia

WATER
Middlesex County/Water Control Law Consent Order
Virginia WATER

Notice of the Department of Environmental Quality, State Water Control Board, announces a proposed consent order with Rappahannock Concrete Corp. for State Water Control Law violations associated with alleged failures to comply with the company's process wastewater and stormwater discharge permit. The alleged deficiencies relate to discharges from washdown and washout of trucks and equipment at the company's facility in Saluda. The consent order requires the settling party to pay a civil penalty of $6,604. Comments are due July 12, 2017. Contact: Cynthia Akers; DEQ; 804-527-5079; cynthia.akers@deq.virginia.gov

—Virginia Register (06/12/2017)

Regulatory Update

WATER
Roanoke County/State Water Control Law Consent Order
Virginia WATER

Notice of the Department of Environmental Quality, State Water Control Board, announces a proposed consent order with Carpet Care of Central Virginia Inc. for alleged State Water Control Law violations associated with unauthorized discharge of oil and grease into Mason Creek in Salem. The consent order requires the settling party to pay a civil penalty of $1,980. Comments are due July 12, 2017. Contact: Jerry Ford; DEQ; 540-562-6817; jerry.ford@deq.virginia.gov

—Virginia Register (06/12/2017)

Regulatory Update

WATER
Sussex County/Water Control Law Consent Order
Virginia WATER

Notice of the Department of Environmental Quality, State Water Control Board, announces a proposed consent order with Atlantic Waste Disposal Inc. for alleged State Water Control Law violations associated with unauthorized discharges of leachate from the Atlantic Waste Landfill, which impacted waters and wetlands in an unnamed tributary of Pigeon Swamp in Waverly. The consent order requires the settling party to pay a civil penalty of $120,000, follow specified

monitoring requirements, and perform a supplemental environmental project as specified by the department. Comments are due July 12, 2017. Contact: Frank Lupini; DEQ; 804-698-4000; frank.lupini@deq.virginia.gov

—Virginia Register (06/12/2017)

Regulatory Update

WATER
York County/Water Control Law Consent Order
Virginia WATER

Notice of the Department of Environmental Quality, State Water Control Board, announces a proposed consent order with Virtexco Corp. for alleged State Water Control Law violations regarding erosion and sediment control associated with stormwater discharge from construction activities at its small arms ranges at the Naval Weapons Station in Yorktown. The consent order requires the settling party to pay a civil penalty of $19,500 and to follow a specified compliance schedule. Comments are due July 12, 2017. Contact: Kristen Sadtler; DEQ; 804-698-4149; kristen.sadtler@deq.virginia.gov

—Virginia Register (06/12/2017)

Regulatory Update

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EHS State Regulatory Alert

To: Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
From: Bloomberg BNA
Sent: Fri 6/16/2017 8:14:41 PM
Subject: June 16 -- Energy and Climate Report - Afternoon Briefing

Energy and Climate Report

Afternoon Briefing - Your Preview of Today's News

The following news provides a snapshot of what Bloomberg BNA is working on today. Read the full version of all the stories in the final issue, published each night.

Pruitt Schedule Peppered With Energy Company Meetings

Posted June 16, 2017, 01:07 P.M. ET

By Brian Dabbs

EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt met frequently with energy companies during his first six weeks in office, a timespan that didn't feature a single meeting with an environmental advocacy group, his newly released schedule shows.

The former Oklahoma attorney general sat down with American Petroleum Institute executive committee, Chevron Corp., Duke Energy, BP America Inc., and the Edison Electric Institute between mid-February and the end of March, according to records obtained by Bloomberg BNA from a Freedom of Information Act request.

A range of coal and other energy companies filled Pruitt's campaign coffers during his past two decades in Oklahoma politics. Pruitt also in recent years led the Republican Attorneys General Association, which has close financial ties to energy companies.

He attended a RAGA dinner nine days after President Donald Trump swore him into office. Pruitt met with the Nature Conservancy and the Audubon Society, both environmental groups, in late April.

Week Ahead: It's Perry's Turn in the Budget-Defense Barrel

Posted June 16, 2017, 01:28 P.M. ET

By Chuck McCutcheon

Energy Secretary Rick Perry is expected to face grilling from Congress similar to what EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt received about proposed steep cuts to his agency's fiscal 2018 budget—one of numerous energy and environment events during the week of June 19.

Perry is scheduled to testify Tuesday before the House Appropriations' Energy and Water Development Subcommittee. The ex-Texas governor then will face the Senate's counterpart spending panel on Wednesday and the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee on Thursday. His appearances come after Republican appropriators, listening to Pruitt testify,

dismissed the Trump administration's proposals for EPA as out of hand.

Under President Donald Trump's proposal, the Energy Department would sustain an overall 5.4 percent cut, or $1.7 billion—minor compared to most other Cabinet agencies—from the estimated funding levels Congress provided in fiscal 2017. The agency's clean energy programs would bear the brunt of the cuts, with new funds funneled into the arm of the agency dealing with developing and safeguarding nuclear weapons.

Energy efficiency and renewable energy program funding would plummet by around 70 percent. Subprograms dealing with weatherization of homes and state energy are proposed for elimination "to reduce federal intervention in state-level energy policy and implementation," according to the department.

Even fossil energy research, which supports research into coal, oil and other energy types that Trump has emphasized, is proposed to get a 55 percent cut. And Energy's Office of Nuclear Energy, which advances nuclear power as resource and conducts nuclear-related research and development, would see a nearly 30 percent cut.

Perry said last month that the budget proposal "delivers on the promise to reprioritize spending to carry out DOE's core functions efficiently and effectively while also being fiscally responsible and respectful to the American taxpayer." But his predecessor Ernest Moniz, who served under President Barack Obama—and who is speaking at the National Press Club on Wednesday about the need for more energy research—said the proposed reductions "would put us behind China and Europe" in developing clean-energy markets.

Two senators already have come out publicly against cutting Energy Department research: Lamar Alexander (R-Tenn.), who chairs Appropriations' Energy and Water Subcommittee, and Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska), who chairs Energy and Natural Resources. They joined several colleagues in a May letter asserting: "Federally funded research is imperative to ensuring we meet our energy, science, and national security needs for generations to come."

Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke also is continuing to head to Capitol Hill to discuss his agency's proposed budget. The Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee also will listen to Zinke on Tuesday, followed by the House Natural Resources Committee on Thursday. Like Pruitt, Zinke also has faced bipartisan skepticism on called-for cuts at Interior, including elimination of a pilot program on abandoned mine lands, the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, and an earthquake early warning program, as well as a deep cut in money for the Land and Water Conservation Fund. Alan Kovski will cover.

Pruitt, Zinke and numerous other public- and private-sector officials, including the Edison Electric Institute's Tom Kuhn and NuScale Power's John Hopkins, are scheduled to take part on Tuesday at a U.S. Chamber of Commerce's Institute for 21st Century Energy breakfast on how energy innovation can drive future economic growth. David Schultz will cover.

In Other News

Water infrastructure: The Senate Environment and Public Works Committee's Subcommittee on Fisheries, Water, and Wildlife will hold a Tuesday hearing, "Innovative Financing and Funding: Addressing America's Crumbling Water Infrastructure." Amena H. Saiyid will cover.

Environmental technologies: The House Science, Space and Technology Committee's Environment Subcommittee will hold a Wednesday hearing on advances in environmental technologies. Among

the companies testifying is Saildrone Inc., which collects and delivers live ocean data on weather forecasting and climate, among other uses, through a fleet of autonomous sailing drones.

Climate roundtable: Rep. Eddie Bernice Johnson (D-Texas), the Science Committee's ranking member, will hold a Tuesday roundtable on climate change. Witnesses include scientists from Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory and Woods Hole Research Center.

Amended TSCA: The week of June 19 marks the one-year anniversary of Congress's overhaul of the Toxic Substances Control Act. The statute requires the agency to release by Monday its strategies for assessing the risks of 10 chemicals and groups of chemicals. The EPA also is required to issue by June 22 three final rules, which will describe the agency's approach to identify chemicals in commerce, determine which of them are priorities for risk assessment and carry out those risk evaluations. Many people have bet some or all deadlines may slip, but the agency has been working to meet them. Pat Rizzuto and Sam Pearson will cover.

WOTUS deadline: Monday is the deadline for states to submit comments on how they would like to see the EPA and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers rewrite the waters of the U.S. rule following the direction provided by Trump. In his executive order, Trump ordered that the rewrite consider the late Justice Antonin Scalia's opinion in a 2006 U.S. Supreme Court case in which Scalia asserted Clean Water Act jurisdiction on the basis of relatively flowing water. Reporting by Saiyid.

Canadian Oil-Sands Production Expected to Grow Rapidly

Posted June 16, 2017, 11:21 A.M. ET

By Kevin Orland

Canada's oil-sands will increase production rapidly in the next three years, ranking only behind U.S. shale as the biggest contributor to global supply growth.

The oil sands will boost output by almost half a million barrels a day over this year and the next, with a smaller increase in 2019, IHS Markit said June 15. Production from the resource, which churned out about 2.6 million barrels a day last year, may be 1 million barrels per day higher by 2026, the researcher said.

The deposits of sand, water, clay and hydrocarbons in northern Alberta saw a frenzy of dealmaking activity earlier this year as Canadian producers bought out international partners in a bet that they can make the capital-intensive operations more efficient and profitable. Indeed, much of the production growth from the oil sands will come from expansion of existing facilities, which offer lower costs and risks, as well as quicker returns, IHS said. The IHS projections echo a study released by the Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers June 14, which forecast oil-sands production would increase by 1.3 million barrels a day by 2030. That study also indicated that the nation's crude output will exceed existing pipeline capacity, limiting producers' access to markets.

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Green Bond Growth Unruffled by U.S. Paris Exit, EIB Says

Posted June 16, 2017, 12:02 P.M. ET

By Lyubov Pronina

Green bond sales by borrowers including Apple Inc. show the U.S. pullout from the Paris climate accord has not slowed a market that almost doubled last year, the European Investment Bank's capital markets chief said.

If President Donald Trump's decision to take the U.S. out of the Paris climate accord was a setback for the international pact to curb greenhouse gases, issuers are brushing it off, according to Eila Kreivi, the bank's head of capital markets.

"Two years ago, it would have been a catastrophe but now the market has a life of its own," she said in an interview on the sidelines of an International Capital Market Association conference on green bonds in Paris on June 14. "We have seen so many American market participants who have said, we don't care. Indeed, Apple's green bond confirmed that."

Apple, which wants to run 100 percent of its operations on renewable energy, issued $1 billion of the securities on June 13, adding to a $1.5 billion sale in 2016. This year's most active seller of the securities is the French government, which sold an inaugural 7 billion euros ($7.8 billion) in January to fund efforts to meet European Union targets on emissions cuts.

The EIB, which is the second largest global issuer of the securities in 2017 after France, according to Bloomberg league tables, will continue to provide as much as 4 billion euros per year in financing for eligible projects, Kreivi said.

"We expect to see a fairly similar number this year in lending and green bond issuance," she said.

Global sales of green bonds almost doubled last year to $95.65 billion, according to Bloomberg New Energy Finance, which expects volumes to reach $123 billion in 2017. The market's momentum has continued into this week with a 1 billion euro offering of notes across two maturities by Dutch power company TenneT Holding and China Three Gorges Corp's 650 million euro sale of seven-year paper.

The EIB is working with China to produce a White Paper by the year-end to map out a framework for green bonds principles, Kreivi said.

—With assistance from Brian Parkin.

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Merkel Cabinet Opens German Clean Power Auctions to EU Neighbors

Posted June 16, 2017, 02:23 P.M. ET

By Brian Parkin and Andrew Reierson

Chancellor Angela Merkel's Cabinet approved a plan to allow companies in nations neighboring Germany to compete in clean power auctions.

Developers in the 28 European Union countries will be able to bid for as much as 300 megawatts of capacity, which is equal to about 5 percent of Germany's current annual auction volume, the Economy and Energy Ministry said. An ordinance ushering in the move will be effective shortly, and the ministry plans to expand the volume.

The step is aimed at integrating Germany's clean power expansion in the EU as the bloc strives to create a single market for electricity. Spreading generation beyond Germany's border will also help ease fluctuations in its wind and solar power generation, the ministry said.

Germany kicked off cross-border auctions last year in a test with Denmark, offering 50 megawatts of capacity to its neighbor. Denmark reciprocated offering 20 megawatts.

Merkel's cabinet set three conditions for implementing the ordinance. EU neighbor states must reciprocate by offering clean power capacity. They must anchor the pledge in an international agreement, and power that's generated must be able to be "physically imported" into Germany, the ministry said.

The cross-border auctions will be open to all types of green power. Regional advantages for specific types of power generation -- such as hydro power -- will help iron out the fluctuations in Germany's wind and solar power.

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Energy and Climate Report

To: Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
From: POLITICO Pro Energy Whiteboard
Sent: Mon 7/3/2017 7:12:19 PM
Subject: Pruitt's order to stop 'sue and settle' agreements not written down, EPA says

By Alex Guillén

07/03/2017 03:09 PM EDT

EPA today said Administrator Scott Pruitt's "directive" for the agency to stop the practice called "sue and settle" was only issued orally, not in writing.

The agency revealed that Pruitt's order was not written down in response to a Freedom of Information Act request from POLITICO. EPA did not say when Pruitt issued the oral directive.

Pruitt said at a May 24 conference in Washington that he had issued a directive to employees instructing them to avoid reaching settlements in lawsuits brought by environmental groups. He and many Republicans have long criticized the practice as a way for environmental groups to force new regulations. Green groups have noted they typically are suing over missed deadlines or other statutory requirements.

A group of Republican lawmakers last week asked for a briefing from EPA and the Justice Department about their plans to end "sue and settle" agreements.

To view online:
https://www.politicopro.com/energy/whiteboard/2017/07/pruitts-order-to-stop-sue-and-settle-agreements-not-written-down-epa-says-090038

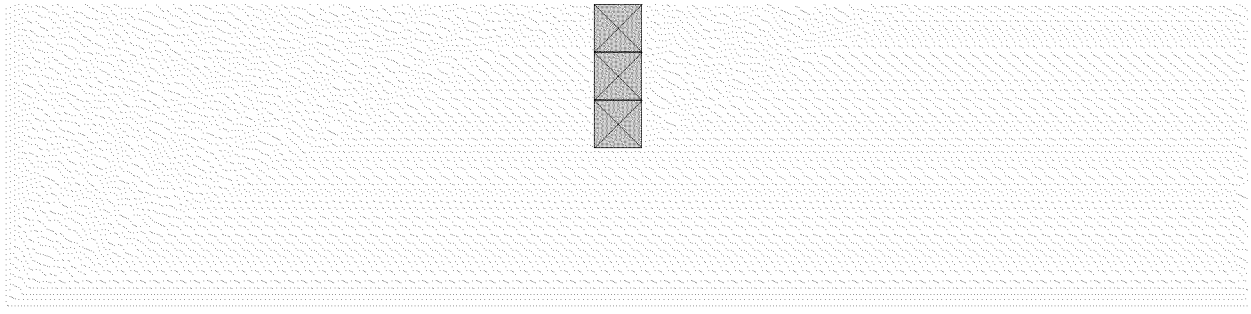
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To: Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
From: American Security Today
Sent: Mon 11/13/2017 12:15:36 PM
Subject: 7 Shot in Nightclub, RAD Attacks, ISIS Videos Still Online, Terror Update, New Bin Ladin Files





To: Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
From: Bloomberg BNA
Sent: Tue 5/30/2017 12:13:50 PM
Subject: May 30 -- EHS State Regulatory Alert

EHS State Regulatory Alert

May 30, 2017 - Number 102

You can create a report customized by topic, jurisdiction, and date range by using the Regulatory Summaries Report Tool. The report can be generated in Excel, Word, or PDF.

California Regions

AIR
Ambient Air Monitoring Network Plan
California Regions AIR

Notice of the San Luis Obispo County Air Pollution Control District announces the draft 2017 Ambient Air Monitoring Network Plan (ANP), which is intended fulfill federal requirements for state or local agencies to submit to the EPA annual monitoring network plans to document the establishment and maintenance of air quality surveillance systems (40 CFR 58.10). The current plan describes the region's existing network and reports that aside from some temporary closures, there have been no significant changes to the network since the last ANP and no future changes are planned. Comments are due June 26, 2017. Contact: Karl Tupper; San Luis Obispo County APCD; 805-781-5912; ktupper@co.slo.ca.us

—California RegionsRegulations (05/24/2017)

Regulatory Update

AIR
Equipment Not Requiring a Written Permit
California Regions AIR

Final rule of the South Coast Air Quality Management District amends regulations under Rules 219 and 222 concerning equipment not requiring a written permit. The rule adds exemptions for a number of equipment categories with small criteria pollutant and low toxic emission profiles and limited potential for further reductions from permitting requirements. The rule also revises filing requirements for operators of certain types of permit-exempt equipment. The rule is effective May 5, 2017. Contact: Tracy Goss; South Coast AQMD, Planning, Rule Development and Area Sources; 909-396-3106; tgoss@aqmd.gov

—California RegionsRegulations (05/05/2017)

Regulatory Update

WATER
New River/Raw Sewage from Mexicali
California Regions WATER

Notice of the Colorado River Basin Regional Water Quality Control Board announces a resolution (R7-2017-0022) requesting that the federal government and the North American Development Bank and Border Environment Cooperation Commission take action to ensure Mexico eliminates bypasses of raw sewage from the Mexicali area into the New River. The resolution was adopted May 19, 2017. Contact: Jose Angel; Colorado River Basin RWQCB; 760-346-7491; Jose.Angel@waterboards.ca.gov

—California RegionsRegulations (05/19/2017)

Regulatory Update

WATER
Sacramento and San Joaquin River, Tulare Lake Basin Water Quality Control Plans
California Regions WATER

Notice of the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board announces the rescheduling of a hearing on a proposed amendment to the water quality control plans for the Sacramento and San Joaquin river basins and the Tulare Lake Basin to establish a region-wide process for evaluating the municipal and domestic supply beneficial use in agriculturally dominated surface water bodies. The amendment establishes a water body categorization framework to distinguish between water bodies that have been constructed or modified to convey agricultural drainage or agricultural supply water, natural water bodies dominated by agricultural operations, and water bodies encompassed in a permanent or seasonally closed controlled recirculating basin. The amendment also establishes a limited municipal and domestic supply use for agriculturally dominated water bodies that do not meet the sources of drinking water policy exceptions but that have inherent limiting conditions, such as low or intermittent flows and/or elevated natural background constituent concentrations. The hearing date change is needed so the board can consider nonsubstantive revisions related to consistency between the proposed amendment and the board's Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program. The hearing now is scheduled for Aug. 10-11, 2017, in Rancho Cordova. Contact: Anne Littlejohn; Central Valley RWQCB; 916-464-4840; anne.littlejohn@waterboards.ca.gov

—California RegionsRegulations (05/23/2017)

Regulatory Update

Colorado

WATER
Aquatic Life Use Attainment Policy
Colorado WATER

Notice of the Department of Public Health and Environment, Water Quality Control Commission,

announces a hearing to consider revisions to the aquatic life use attainment policy (Policy 10-1). The current policy, which expires Aug. 31, 2017, provides the commission's methodology for determining whether the aquatic life use is attained in rivers and streams and relies on direct measurement of aquatic life use rather than on comparing existing water quality to numeric standards for individual pollutants set to protect aquatic life. The hearing is scheduled for Aug. 7, 2017, in Denver. Comments are due June 30, 2017. Contact: DPHE, Water Quality Control Commission; 303-692-3500

—Colorado Register (05/25/2017)

Regulatory Update

Kansas

WATER
Consumptive Use of Water Right Calculations
Kansas WATER

Proposed rule of the Department of Agriculture, Division of Water Resources, amends regulations under KAR 5-5-9, -5-10, -5-16 and -14-11 regarding consumptive water usage. The rule modifies how the consumptive use of a water right is calculated when converting an irrigation water right to a different beneficial use made of water. The rule also adds an additional well water right and modifies how the civil penalty on a delinquent water use report will be applied based on when the report and penalty are received by the department. A hearing is scheduled for July 25, 2017, in Manhattan and via teleconference in specified locations. Comments are due July 25, 2017. Contact: Ronda Hutton; Department of Agriculture, Division of Water Resources; 785-564-6715; ronda.hutton@ks.gov

—Kansas Register (05/25/2017)

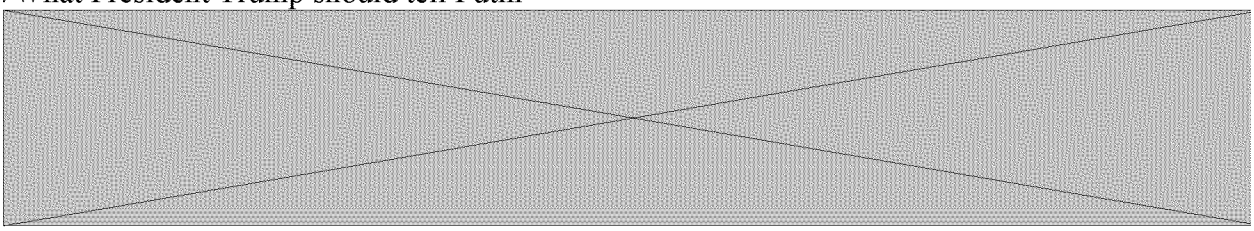
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EHS State Regulatory Alert

To: Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
From: American Enterprise Institute
Sent: Fri 7/7/2017 10:08:18 AM
Subject: AEI Today: What President Trump should tell Putin

. What President Trump should tell Putin



AEI's daily publication of independent research, insightful analysis, and scholarly debate

Reuters

What President Trump should tell Putin

Leon Aron | AEI

President Trump will not have much time for his meeting with Vladimir Putin today "on the margins" of the G20 summit in Hamburg. But he can say what he needs to in less than five minutes: "We have seen the polls. Russians detest their government. But instead of undertaking a thorough cleanup, you have shifted the foundation of your legitimacy from income growth to patriotic mobilization — with anti-Americanism as your central trope."

Reuters

Don't count out American coal yet

Mark J. Perry | US News & World Report

The coal industry has faced headwinds for the past decade. Burdensome regulations and competition from cheap natural gas have taken their toll. Conventional wisdom now suggests

the sun is setting on the American coal industry, but the assumptions driving that thinking are far from certainties. Why should we assume renewable energy technology will only improve faster and more disruptively than fossil fuel technology?

Reuters

When the media talks about trade, it talks about trade badly

Derek Scissors | AEIdeas

Media friends, here are a few suggestions that may improve your trade work. First, when world leaders get together, they exaggerate. A lot. Please be skeptical of grand announcements — and not only skeptical when it's convenient. Second, if you've decided to anoint a "new global trade leader," consider if that new leader offers the currency used in more than four-fifths of world currency trading. If not, pause.

AEI

Jay Powell: The need to fix US housing finance is urgent

Stephen D. Oliner | AEI event video

Housing finance reform is vital to the health of our economy. While policymakers and the private sector have strengthened the core of the financial system, the housing sector rests on an uncertain foundation. Federal Reserve Governor Jay Powell calls housing finance reform "the great unfinished business of post–Financial Crisis reform. . . . There is broad

agreement the job is far from done." (Clip begins at the 6:27 mark.)

More from AEI

To save health care reform, Republicans should be more ambitious, not less
Ramesh Ponnuru | Bloomberg View

Trying to force China to 'fix' North Korea with sanctions is a waste of time

John R. Bolton | New York Post

A 23-page bill could upend the way American students pay for college

Preston Cooper | Forbes

Infographic: How Congress can make budget scorekeeping more transparent

Matt Jensen | AEI Open Source Policy Center

Last year, the Government Accountability Office issued a blistering report on the Lifeline program. Has the FCC fixed it?

Daniel Lyons | TechPolicyDaily.com

'Repeal now, replace later' will kill health care reform

Marc A. Thiessen | The Washington Post

AEI in the news: Listen up, millennials. There's a sequence to success.

George F. Will | The Washington Post

Antimicrobial resistance is a threat to public health — and will increasingly harm economies

Roger Bate | AEIdeas

Podcast: Two authors, two very different portraits of Ronald Reagan's conservatism

Spencer Moore and Cecilia Gallogly | AEI Banter

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To: Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
From: POLITICO Pro
Sent: Thur 5/25/2017 5:45:20 PM
Subject: SolarWorld joins Suniva in trade complaint

By Esther Whieldon

05/25/2017 01:37 PM EDT

The U.S. arm of Germany's SolarWorld AG is joining Suniva's petition asking the Trump administration to impose trade restrictions on solar cells and modules imported into the U.S.

"We have hoped and waited for serious proposals for settling the overall U.S. solar industry's trade tensions with China, but we have received none," Juergen Stein, president of SolarWorld Americas, said in a statement today. "Therefore, we have decided to join the case to pursue the best remedy available to us to restore fair competition in the U.S. market."

A U.S. trade commission launched an investigation into Suniva's request on Tuesday.

The German parent company of SolarWorld Americas is going through its own bankruptcy proceeding in Germany and recently warned workers at its manufacturing plant in Oregon that there could be massive layoffs, noting the influx of cheaper solar cells and panels from Asian countries are putting it out of business.

SolarWorld Americas, the largest manufacturer of crystalline silicon photovoltaic panels in the U.S., previously won anti-dumping and countervailing duty sanctions against Chinese-made solar products in 2012.

WHAT'S NEXT: The commission expects to determine the extent to which the cheaper solar panels are causing injury by Sept. 22 and to send its recommendations to President Donald Trump by Nov. 13.

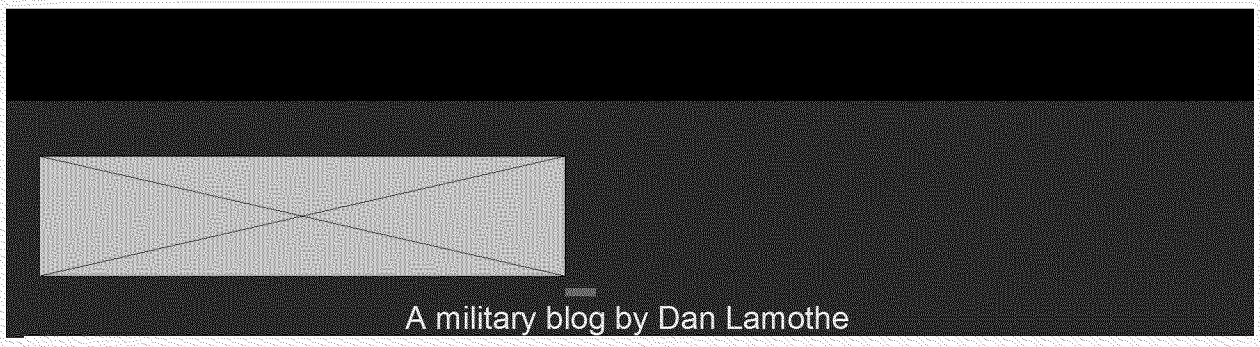
To view online:
https://www.politicopro.com/energy/whiteboard/2017/05/solarworld-joins-suniva-in-trade-complaint-088314

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From: The Washington Post
Sent: Fri 10/27/2017 4:03:37 PM
Subject: Checkpoint: Two American women were lost at sea for months. Then came the Navy — and 'pure relief.'



Two American women were lost at sea for months. Then came the Navy — and 'pure relief.'

"I honestly believed we were going to die within the next 24 hours," one of the rescued sailors said.

By Eli Rosenberg and Lindsey Bever • Read more »

The troops who searched for Bergdahl came under attack and feared for their lives

"All for a dude who decided to walk off," said one commander. "Good times."

By Alex Horton • Read more »

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Top U.S. general frustrated with media's 'drip,

drip, drip' of details on deadly Niger attack

"It's the world as it is," said. Gen. Joseph Dunford Jr.

By Dan Lamothe • Read more »

Pentagon's top general to address cyberespionage, ballistic missile defense in South Korea

Gen. Joseph Dunford Jr.'s visit comes ahead of President Trump's next month.

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At Bergdahl sentencing, a former Navy SEAL sheds tears recounting death of military dog

A judge will decide if Bergdahl's punishment will be affected by the testimony of wounded troops.

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To: Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
From: Anna Palmer Jake Sherman Daniel Lippman
Sent: Tue 7/25/2017 5:13:41 PM
Subject: Playbook Power Briefing, presented by BP: HEALTH CARE VOTE around 2:30, 'skinny repeal' on the table -- BREITBART slams Trump over Sessions statements -- SCARAMUCCI drops the ax on MICHAEL SHORT -- JON ALLEN and AMIE PARNES' 2020 book deal

View online version | Add politicoplaybook@politico.com to your address book.

Today's Playbook Power Briefing presented by BP

By JAKE SHERMAN (sherman@politico.com; @JakeSherman), ANNA PALMER (anna@politico.com; @apalmerdc), DANIEL LIPPMAN (daniel@politico.com; @dlippman), ZACH MONTELLARO (zmontellaro@politico.com; @ZachMontellaro)

Good Tuesday afternoon. SPOTTED at the Trump Hotel Monday night: Rudy Giuliani meeting with David Bossie. Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin was also there.

JEN HABERKORN, SEUNG MIN KIM and **BURGESS EVERETT:** "Senate Republicans neared a dramatic vote Tuesday to start dismantling Obamacare claiming that momentum is on their side - but not sure they actually have the votes. ...

"'I'm optimistic right now,' said Sen. Richard Burr (R-N.C.). 'John McCain's coming back. That's positive.' Though McCain's return was being used as motivation for wavering senators, the vote count was unclear as of midday Tuesday. About a half-dozen senators were publicly undecided about whether to allow debate to start on rolling back the Affordable Care Act as President Donald Trump and Majority Leader Mitch McConnell desperately sought their votes." http://politi.co/2tzE3eK

RISING: THE SKINNY REPEAL -- It looks like the Senate is going to eventually try to pass what they're calling a "skinny repeal" -- stripping the individual and employer mandate, and the medical-device tax from law. Can they pass it? Who knows. Senior Republicans we talk to in both chambers are not sure anything can get through.

WHAT WILL THE HOUSE DO? If a "skinny repeal" passes, House Republicans are not likely to simply bring it up on its own, according to people we've been speaking to. They'd try to cobble together some sort of replacement element because gutting these two pieces won't be enough for many in the GOP. The other option: go to a conference committee and formally negotiate.

IF THE SENATE IS SUCCESSFUL, THIS COULD SCREW UP AUGUST FOR THE HOUSE. It's feasible the recess will shrink to a week or two.

THE VOTE TO PROCEED: In the 2:30 p.m. neighborhood. **SEN. JOHN MCCAIN (R-ARIZ.)** is expected to hold a press availability after the vote just off the Senate floor, in front of the Ohio clock.

NEW POLITICO/MORNING CONSULT POLL -- "Poll: Voters oppose straight Obamacare repeal," by Steven Shepard: "Just 36 percent of voters support repealing Obamacare without a replacement, according to a new POLITICO/Morning Consult poll conducted on the eve of planned votes in the Senate to move forward on overhauling the health care system. Half of voters, 50 percent, oppose repealing the 2010 health care law without replacing it, the poll shows. The survey suggests congressional Republicans are squeezed between a base that wants Obamacare repealed, and a broader electorate that is - at best - skeptical of the GOP's plans for health care." http://politi.co/2tGR4Hu

PRESIDENT TRUMP will have a press conference with the Lebanese prime minister at 3 p.m. today.

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PLAYBOOK THOUGHT BUBBLE: Instead of firing Reince Priebus, **PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP** has dispatched Anthony Scaramucci to fire low-level press aides aligned with the embattled chief of staff. Instead of cutting Jeff Sessions loose, he is publicly berating him on Twitter. The only guy he has fired is James Comey, who he didn't hire. For a guy whose motto was "you're fired" ...

-- @maggieNYT: "I asked two ppl close to Trump why he is tormenting Sessions instead of firing him. The answer from both, paraphrased: Because he can."

SPEAKER PAUL RYAN this morning on Trump potentially firing Attorney General Jeff Sessions: "Look the president gets to decide what his personnel is. You all know that. He's the executive branch ... He determines who is hired and fired in the executive branch-that's his prerogative. If he has concerns or questions or problems with the attorney general I'm sure he'll bring them up with him."

-- @RepKinzinger on Trump tweeting that Sessions is "very week": "Mr. President, maybe just try a meeting? This is beneath the office - of any held office - from city councilman to POTUS."

-- @LindseyGrahamSC: "Jeff Sessions is one of the most decent people I've ever met in my political life. ... President Trump's tweet today suggesting Attorney General Sessions pursue prosecution of a former political rival is highly inappropriate." ***Full statement*** http://bit.ly/2tW9QWC

-- Mike Levine (@MLevineReports): "I just asked Deputy AG Rosenstein, 'Should Mr. Sessions stick it out?' Rosenstein offered a slight smile, but didn't [say] anything." ... **@ByronYork:** "Talking to Sessions allies this AM, all same advice: Do not resign. Too much at stake, for conservative DOJ agenda, also for Russia probe."

TROUBLE IN PARADISE -- BREITBART'S LEAD STORY: "Trump's Attack on Sessions over Clinton Prosecution Highlights His Own 'Weak' Stance" http://bit.ly/2tWnrNH

IF YOU'RE AN ELECTED REPUBLICAN, are you looking at this White House and saying, "Yes, these are the people I'm going to cut legislative deals with?" If you're thinking about joining the administration, how do you feel today?

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DRIVING TODAY -- TARA PALMERI SCOOP: "Scaramucci to oust White House press aide, offers 'amnesty' to others": "Newly appointed White House communications director Anthony Scaramucci said on Tuesday that he plans to dismiss assistant press secretary Michael Short. It would be Scaramucci's first step toward shaking up the communications shop, which has been dominated by former [RNC] staffers loyal to White House chief of staff Reince Priebus, a former RNC chairman. ...

"Scaramucci warned that Short would be the first of many, if he's not able to stop the leaks coming out of the communications and press shop. ... During his first day on the job on Monday, Scaramucci met with current communications staffers and warned about leaks coming from the office. 'I offered amnesty in the meeting, but that decision is above my rank,' Scaramucci said. Short is expected to be the first of a wave of staffers closely aligned with Priebus to be shown the door." http://politi.co/2tGGRec ***Short later told Jonathan Swan and Zeke Miller he resigned.***

-- **@ZekeJMiller**: "Scaramucci just now: 'I'm going to get the leaking to stop' q: how? 'I'm going to fire everybody, that's how I'm going to do it.'"

-- IF SCARAMUCCI thinks the leaks are coming from the press shop, boy does he have a lot to learn about his new place of employ.

SCARAMUCCI later decried the disclosure of Short's firing as a leak ... but he provided the information! http://bit.ly/2uUqYk2

KUMBAYA? -- "Senate Dems plan to drop nominations blockade after health debate," by Seung Min Kim and Burgess Everett: "Senate Democrats have dragged out confirmations for even the least controversial nominees while the chamber remained mired in the health care debate. But they're pledging to drop their blockade if the GOP's Obamacare repeal effort fails, according to senior Democratic sources. In recent weeks, the Senate has slowed to a crawl, taking days to process nominees such as a federal judge from Idaho and the second-ranking official at the Pentagon as a protest of sorts against the Republicans' secretive health care drafting process. The GOP also claims that Democrats aren't negotiating on a budget deal, veterans' legislation and Food and

Drug Administration fees until the Obamacare debate is over.

"But Democrats plan to work with Republicans for a deal on the dozens of nominations lingering on the floor once the GOP's partisan health push ends, according to Democratic senators and aides. 'Mitch McConnell put reconciliation on the table hours after the session started and it has really tainted all of our efforts,' Senate Minority Whip Dick Durbin (D-Ill.) said in an interview. 'When he is prepared to return to regular order, I think we are going to have a much more cooperative Senate.'" http://politi.co/2tWYx0q

THINGS ARE GETTING REAL -- "Senate panel subpoenas Manafort as campaign aides provide Russia information," by Josh Dawsey and Madeline Conway: "A Senate committee said Tuesday it sent Paul Manafort a subpoena compelling his testimony in its Russia probe, even as he and Jared Kushner were providing information to other congressional investigators about a heavily scrutinized meeting last year with a Russian lawyer. Kushner, President Donald Trump's senior adviser and son-in-law, was scheduled to testify before the House Intelligence Committee in a closed session on Tuesday. ...

"Manafort spoke to investigators after reaching an agreement with the Senate Intelligence Committee to avoid a subpoena, though another committee separately sought to compel his testimony. Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Chuck Grassley and ranking member Dianne Feinstein said they had been 'unable to reach an agreement for a voluntary transcribed interview with the Judiciary Committee' with Manafort." http://politi.co/2tGULNj

-- MEANWHILE... -- "Senate Judiciary backs off plans to force Glenn Simpson to publicly testify," by Josh Gerstein, Josh Dawsey and Kyle Cheney: http://politi.co/2h00M1Z

QUOTE OF THE DAY -- @NivElis: "Hilarious hot mic moment after the hearing ends. Unidentified male senator and Sen. Susan Collins discussing Rep. Blake Farenthold (R-Texas) ... Male Senator assure Collins: 'You could beat the s*** out of him.' Collins remarks: 'He's so unattractive, it's unbelievable.'" ***Audio*** http://bit.ly/2tH9ZC7

JARED'S BACKUP -- "'It's just like God to use a young Jewish couple to help Christians:' Trump's evangelical advisers defend Kushner," by WaPo's Sarah Pulliam Bailey: "Ten evangelical leaders [including Jerry Falwell Jr.] issued statements of support for President Trump's son-in-law Jared Kushner, many of them lauding his character and dismissing stories of his alleged ties to Russia ... Evangelical leaders often issue statements about policy issues such as abortion, same-sex marriage and religious freedom, but they don't often comment on specific administration officials. ... Falwell and [Florida megachurch pastor Paula] White both openly doubted the Russia stories in the news media. 'Clearly, this Russian story is nonsense and it must end, enough-is-enough,' White wrote." http://wapo.st/2gZX9ZV ... ***The statements*** http://politi.co/2uy3yP2

WSJ EDITORIAL BOARD - "The Kushner Statement: The President's son-in-law sets a disclosure example on Russia": "The Beltway media are past the point of no return on their collusion odyssey, so there is little chance that Mr. Kushner has put this issue behind him. ... Lying to Congress is a crime, so this statement and its details involve some risk for Mr. Kushner if some other meetings or Russian connections turn up. But if this is all there is, the collusion narrative will have to find another protagonist. The President and other campaign officials could save themselves and the country much grief with similar disclosures." http://on.wsj.com/2gZYyj2

FOR YOUR RADAR -- BENJAMIN NETANYAHU statement on the Israeli-Jordanian crisis that was resolved on Monday: "I thank President Trump for directing Jared Kushner and dispatching Jason Greenblatt to help with our efforts to bring the Israeli embassy staff home quickly. I thank King Abdullah as well for our close cooperation".

-- A WHITE HOUSE AIDE SAYS JARED KUSHNER spoke with the king of Jordan and other officials over the weekend about the Israeli-Jordanian diplomatic situation. Greenblatt went to the region yesterday.

WAR REPORT -- "Videos suggest Russian government may be arming Taliban," by CNN's Nick Paton Walsh and Masoud Popalzai: "The Taliban have received improved weaponry in Afghanistan that appears to have been supplied by the Russian government, according to exclusive videos obtained by CNN, adding weight to accusations by Afghan and American officials that Moscow is arming their one-time foe in the war-torn country." http://cnn.it/2tGK2CD

BOOK ALERT -- JONATHAN ALLEN and **AMIE PARNES,** who wrote the NYT bestseller "Shattered" (***$18.30 on Amazon*** http://amzn.to/2tGhEAE), will write "the definitive inside account" of the 2020 presidential election. The still-untitled book will be published by Crown in 2021.

COMING ATTRACTIONS -- "Republicans want the CEOs of Facebook, Google, AT&T and Comcast to testify to Congress about solving net neutrality," by Recode's Tony Romm: "House Republicans are asking the chief executives of tech and telecom rivals -- including Facebook, Google, AT&T and Comcast -- to appear before the U.S. Congress in September and help settle the debate over net neutrality once and for all. ... Invitees include Alphabet CEO Larry Page, Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg, A&T CEO Brian Roberts, Comcast CEO Brian Roberts, and the leaders of Amazon, Netflix, Charter and Verizon, according to the committee." http://bit.ly/2tWFnHP

MOVIN' OUT -- "West Wing to Empty Out for August Construction," by RCP's Alexis Simendinger: "President Trump's working vacation away from Washington in August will allow some major maintenance and construction to take place in the West Wing, which will require the president's staff to work elsewhere temporarily, sources familiar with the project told RealClearPolitics. ... It is rare to need to uproot aides and advisers who work in the West Wing, a structure that has the benefit of being a historic

showplace, coupled with the downsides of aging plumbing, wiring, heating and air. ... Current plans call for aides to temporarily work off-site for a brief period, decamped in at least two directions: the Eisenhower Executive Office Building next door, as well as with the president, who is expected to visit his New Jersey home at some point between Aug. 3-20, possibly depending on events in Washington." http://bit.ly/2tGo6aB

TODAY'S BEYOND THE BELTWAY -- Adam Schiff trades barbs with Trump administration -- Illinois has another special legislative session
http://politi.co/2tGODVq

MEDIAWATCH -- The Washington Examiner hired **Steven Nelson** and **Gabby Morrongiello** for its White House reporting team. Nelson was a reporter for US News & World Report. Morrongiello was the N.Y. Post's Washington bureau chief for the past three months; she was previously at the Examiner. http://politi.co/2tGxJ9m

WELCOME TO THE WORLD -- Rep. Ryan Costello (R-Pa.) and **Christine Costello**, a finance consultant, on Monday welcomed Caroline Grace Costello, who weighed in at 9 lbs 6 oz. She joins big brother Ryan Jr. in the "overjoyed" Costello household. ***Pics -- Rep. Costello with Caroline and Ryan Jr.*** http://politi.co/2tHB8VD ... http://politi.co/2vG55CJ

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May 22, 2017

Today on Climate Beat . . .

. . . we went to Virginia, where state senator and GOP gubernatorial candidate Frank Wagner is convening a legislative committee meeting on Gov. Terry McAuliffe's (D) plan to regulate carbon emissions from the state's power plants, in which he intends to confront administration officials with a "barrage" of questions.

Back in Washington, the Trump White House is taking steps to block the release of ethics waivers EPA and other agencies have granted that allow former industry lobbyists to work at those agencies, despite an executive order President Donald Trump signed earlier this year generally barring such work.

In Congress, Sen. Tom Carper (D-DE) has some questions for EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt on enforcement, after it came to light that oil and gas producer Devon Energy walked back its position in settlement talks with the agency shortly after Pruitt was confirmed.

Our daily news roundup featured the *New York Times* story that broke the Devon Energy news, as part of a broader look at how Pruitt's deregulatory agenda is already reverberating throughout the oil and gas industry.

And out in coal country, a National Academy of Sciences (NAS) panel will hold its second meeting aimed to resolve contradictory findings on whether surface coal mining in Central Appalachia harms human health, a study that could ultimately aid Trump administration efforts to roll back rules that discourage coal production.

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To: Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
From: EPA Press Office
Sent: Fri 9/8/2017 12:58:53 PM
Subject: REUTERS: EPA chief says ready to further relax fuel standards due to hurricanes

REUTERS

EPA Chief Pledges to Secure Toxic Sites in Irma's Storm Path

Valerie Volcovici
Reuters
September 7, 2017
https://www.reuters.com/article/us-storm-irma-epa/epa-chief-says-ready-to-further-relax-fuel-standards-due-to-hurricanes-idUSKCN1BJ01S

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is preparing for Hurricane Irma's landfall on the U.S. East Coast by securing vulnerable toxic waste sites and easing gasoline standards to ensure steady fuel supplies, its chief told Reuters on Thursday. ...

"The most we can do is help people in these areas by monitoring drinking water and respond to real and tangible issues," he said in a brief telephone interview.

Hurricane Irma is expected to make landfall in Florida as early as Friday after slamming Caribbean islands with 185 mph winds, only days after Hurricane Harvey triggered record flooding in Texas that killed scores of people.

The EPA said has issued waivers on certain federal requirements for the sale, production and blending of gasoline to avoid supply shortfalls in the aftermath of Harvey and as Hurricane Irma approaches Florida.

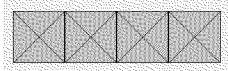
Pruitt said he spoke with Florida Governor Rick Scott about potentially issuing more waivers on gasoline requirements if the need arises after Irma.

"EPA will grant additional waivers if requested," he said.

He said the agency is also evaluating 80 Superfund toxic waste sites from Florida to North Carolina to identify those at risk of flooding.

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Subject: WSJ: Cleaning Up The Superfund Mess

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT ...

Cleaning Up The Superfund Mess
Obama Put Climate Gestures Above Toxic Waste Remedies.

The Wall Street Journal
June 12, 2017
https://www.wsj.com/articles/cleaning-up-the-superfund-mess-1497309104

One cost of making climate change a religion is that more immediate environmental problems have been ignored—not least by the Environmental Protection Agency. New EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt plans to address that in an underreported effort to clean up toxic waste sites under the so-called Superfund program.

In a memo to EPA staff last month, Mr. Pruitt announced a plan to reform the Superfund program created in 1980 and to accelerate the clean up of hazardous waste sites such as old industrial properties or landfills. The effort is long overdue. Superfund has too often become a sinecure for the bureaucracy and a cash cow for lawyers. EPA staff offices can wait years or decades to assess a Superfund site, figure out who's liable for what, consult with the community, decide on a remedy and assign the actual work.

Take the West Lake Landfill Superfund site in Bridgeton, Missouri, which was used for quarrying in the 1930s and later as a landfill. In 1973, 8,700 tons of leached barium sulfate from the Manhattan Project was dumped there, along with soil and waste. The EPA listed the 200-acre facility as a Superfund site in 1990.

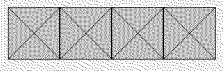
Yet it took 18 years for EPA to decide how to clean up West Lake, finally settling in 2008 on a "multi-layered engineered cover and a system of new monitoring wells." In 2009 the Obama EPA ditched that solution and re-opened the file. In 2010 an underground chemical reaction ignited a fire that is still smoldering.

Another example is the Bunker Hill Mining and Metallurgical Complex in Idaho and Washington state that polluted the air and soil with heavy metals such as lead. The EPA put Bunker Hill on its original list of 406 Superfund sites in 1983, but it too remains an open case.

Or Portland Harbor, in Oregon, which was listed in 2000. The private companies EPA found responsible spent years and tens of millions of dollars on a clean-up study that the agency eventually discarded. Obama EPA chief Gina McCarthy didn't choose a remedy for the site until this January, days before President Trump's inauguration, using information that was more than a decade old.

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British Prime Minister Theresa May has fallen short of an overall majority after calling a snap general election.

With the vast majority of seats declared in the election, no party can win a majority in parliament.

A total of 326 seats is needed to secure a majority and although May's Conservatives will be the largest party, they fell short after a surge in support for Jeremy Corbyn's Labour. At 5:40 a.m. U.K. time, the Tories had 302 seats and Labour had 256, with 25 seats still to declare.

Full story: http://www.politico.eu/article/uk-election-ends-in-hung-parliament/

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EHS Federal Regulatory Alert

May 30, 2017 - Number 102

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Summaries

AIR
California SIP/Imperial County PM-2.5 NAAQS
AIR

Final rule of the EPA corrects a March 13, 2017, direct final rule (82 FR 13392) that amended regulations under 40 CFR 52.220 and 52.247 to make a determination that the Imperial County, Calif., moderate nonattainment area has attained the 2006 24-hour fine particulate matter (PM-2.5) NAAQS, based on ambient air monitoring data for 2013-2015. The rule also approved a revision to the California SIP concerning the annual average and winter daily average inventories for the Imperial County nonattainment area for 2008. The current action clarifies that the EPA is not approving a provision of the state's SIP submittal concerning the determination of significant sources of PM-2.5. The rule is effective May 30, 2017. Contact: Ginger Vagenas; EPA Region 9; 415-972-3964; Vagenas.Ginger@epa.gov

82 FR 24527 (05/30/2017)

Regulatory Update

AIR
Delaware SIP/Materials Incorporated by Reference
AIR

Final rule of the EPA amends regulations under 40 CFR 52.420 to update materials incorporated by reference into the Delaware SIP. The rule incorporates regulations previously submitted by the state and approved by the EPA, as of July 1, 2016. The rule is effective May 30, 2017. Contact: Gavin Huang; EPA Region 3; 215-814-2042; huang.gavin@epa.gov

82 FR 24529 (05/30/2017)

Regulatory Update

AIR
District of Columbia SIP/Regional Haze
AIR

Proposed rule of the EPA amends regulations under 40 CFR 52 to approve a revision to the District of Columbia SIP for regional haze. The revision includes a five-year progress report towards reasonable progress goals for regional haze and a determination of adequacy of the existing regional haze SIP. Comments are due June 29, 2017. Contact: Sara Calcinore; EPA Region 3; 215-814-2043; calcinore.sara@epa.gov

82 FR 24617 (05/30/2017)

Regulatory Update

AIR
Indiana SIP/Muncie Area 2008 Lead Standards
AIR

Direct final rule of the EPA amends regulations under 40 CFR 52.770, 52.797 and 81.315 to approve revisions to the Indiana SIP and to approve a request to redesignate the Muncie nonattainment area in Delaware County to attainment for the 2008 lead NAAQS. The revisions address the plan for maintaining the 2008 lead NAAQS through 2030 and the 2013 attainment year emissions inventory for the area. The rule is effective July 31, 2017, if no adverse comments are received by June 29, 2017. Contact: Anthony Maietta; EPA Region 5, Air Programs Branch; 312-353-8777; maietta.anthony@epa.gov

82 FR 24553 (05/30/2017)

Regulatory Update

AIR
Indiana SIP/Muncie Area 2008 Lead Standards
AIR

Proposed rule of the EPA amends regulations under 40 CFR 52.770, 52.797 and 81.315 to approve revisions to the Indiana SIP and to approve a request to redesignate the Muncie nonattainment area in Delaware County to attainment for the 2008 lead NAAQS. The revisions address the plan for maintaining the 2008 lead NAAQS through 2030 and the 2013 attainment year emissions inventory for the area. A concurrent direct final rule adopts the revisions, effective July 31, 2017. Comments are due June 29, 2017. Contact: Anthony Maietta; EPA Region 5, Air Programs Branch; 312-353-8777; maietta.anthony@epa.gov

82 FR 24635 (05/30/2017)

Regulatory Update

AIR
Maryland SIP/Materials Incorporated by Reference
AIR

Final rule of the EPA amends regulations under 40 CFR 52.1070 to update materials incorporated

by reference into the Maryland SIP. The rule incorporates regulations that have been submitted by the state and approved by the EPA, as of July 1, 2016. The rule is effective May 30, 2017. Contact: Sharon McCauley; EPA Region 3; 215-814-3376; mccauley.sharon@epa.gov

82 FR 24549 (05/30/2017)

Regulatory Update

AIR
Maryland SIP/NOx Emissions from Coal-Fired EGUs
AIR

Final rule of the EPA amends regulations under 40 CFR 52.1070 to approve a revision to the Maryland SIP regarding control of nitrogen oxide (NOx) emissions from seven coal-fired electric generating units (EGUs) in the state. The rule specifies that it is a strengthening measure and not intended to address reasonably available control technology for coal-fired EGUs. The rule is effective June 29, 2017. Contact: Marilyn Powers; EPA Region 3; 215-814-2308; powers.marilyn@epa.gov

82 FR 24546 (05/30/2017)

Regulatory Update

AIR
Maryland SIP/Regional Haze
AIR

Proposed rule of the EPA amends regulations under 40 CFR 52 to approve revisions to the Maryland regional haze SIP regarding best available retrofit technology (BART) measures for the Verso Luke Paper Mill in Luke, Md. The revisions consist of new sulfur dioxide (SO2) and nitrogen oxide (NOx) emissions limits for the mill's power boiler 24 due to the boiler's transition to a natural gas fuel source, an SO2 cap on tons emitted per year for power boiler 25, and the removal of BART emission limits for NOx from boiler 25. The rule incorporates by reference Aug. 17, 2016, permit conditions for boilers 24 and 25, which include alternative emission requirements along with monitoring, recordkeeping and reporting requirements. Comments are due June 29, 2017. Contact: Irene Shandruk; EPA Region 3; 215-814-2166; shandruk.irene@epa.gov

82 FR 24614 (05/30/2017)

Regulatory Update

AIR
Oregon SIP
AIR

Notice of the EPA announces the reopening of the comment period for a March 22, 2017, proposed rule (82 FR 14654) to amend regulations under 40 CFR 52 to partially approve revisions to the Oregon SIP. The revisions update particulate matter emission standards, revise permitting requirements for emergency generators and small natural gas or oil-fired equipment, and establish sustainment and reattainment state air quality area designations. The revisions also

update the major and minor source preconstruction permitting programs, address public notice procedures for informational meetings, and revise the woodstove replacement program for small commercial solid fuel boilers. In addition, the revisions update the Source Sampling Manual and Continuous Monitoring Manual. Finally, the revisions reorganize the SIP and remove outdated and duplicative provisions. The EPA is proposing to not approve certain revisions that are inconsistent with Clean Air Act requirements or appropriate for SIP approval and specifies that revisions concerning annual reporting requirements for small gasoline dispensing facilities were approved in an Oct. 27, 2015, final rule (80 FR 65655). Comments now are due June 29, 2017. Contact: Kristin Hall; EPA Region 10, Office of Air and Waste; 206-553-6357; hall.kristin@epa.gov

82 FR 24621 (05/30/2017)

Regulatory Update

AIR

Tennessee SIP/Knoxville PM-2.5 Nonattainment Area

AIR

Proposed rule of the EPA amends regulations under 40 CFR 52 and 81 to redesignate the Knoxville-Sevierville-La Follette, Tenn., fine particulate matter (PM-2.5) nonattainment area to attainment for the 1997 PM-2.5 NAAQS and determine that the area is attaining the NAAQS based on 2013-2015 monitoring data. The rule also approves and incorporates into the SIP the state's reasonably available control measures determination for the area and source-specific requirements for two sources, Tennessee Valley Authority's Bull Run Fossil Plant and Kingston Fossil Plant. In addition, the rule approves the maintenance plan, including motor vehicle emission budgets for nitrogen oxides and PM-2.5 for 2014 and 2028. Comments are due June 29, 2017. Contact: Sean Lakeman; EPA Region 4, Air Planning and Implementation Branch; 404-562-9043; lakeman.sean@epa.gov

82 FR 24636 (05/30/2017)

Regulatory Update

AIR

Tennessee SIP/Knoxville PM-2.5 Nonattainment Area

AIR

Proposed rule of the EPA amends regulations under 40 CFR 52 and 81 to redesignate the Knoxville-Sevierville-La Follette, Tenn., fine particulate matter (PM-2.5) nonattainment area to attainment for the 2006 24-hour PM-2.5 NAAQS and determine that the area is attaining the NAAQS based on 2013-2015 monitoring data. The rule also approves and incorporates into the SIP the state's reasonably available control measures determination for the area. In addition, the rule approves the maintenance plan, including motor vehicle emission budgets for nitrogen oxides and PM-2.5 for 2014 and 2028. Comments are due June 29, 2017. Contact: Sean Lakeman; EPA Region 4, Air Planning and Implementation Branch; 404-562-9043; lakeman.sean@epa.gov

82 FR 24621 (05/30/2017)

Regulatory Update

AIR

Virginia SIP/Materials Incorporated by Reference
AIR

Final rule of the EPA amends regulations under 40 CFR 52.2420 to update state materials incorporated by reference into the Virginia SIP. The rule addresses regulations for source specific requirements and provisions concerning plan identification. The rule incorporates regulations previously submitted by the state and approved by the EPA, as of July 1, 2016. The rule is effective May 30, 2017, except for provisions under 40 CFR 52.2420(e), which are effective June 9, 2017. Contact: Sharon McCauley; EPA Region 3; 215-814-3376; mccauley.sharon@epa.gov

82 FR 24537 (05/30/2017)

Regulatory Update

AIR
Washington SIP/Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council Air Quality Regulations
AIR

Final rule of the EPA amends regulations under 40 CFR 52.2470, 52.2497 and 52.2498 to approve revisions to the Washington SIP to incorporate by reference updated Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council (EFSEC) air quality regulations that implement the preconstruction permitting program for major source facilities in attainment and unclassifiable areas and the visibility protection permitting program. The rule also revises the federal implementation plan governing the prevention of significant deterioration program for major energy facilities under EFSEC jurisdiction. In addition, the rule approves state submissions regarding enforcement and other general authorities to implement and enforce the SIP, but does not incorporate by reference the provisions. Finally, the rule transfers the EPA-issued permits for the Chehalis Generation Facility and Grays Harbor Energy Center facilities to EFSEC. The rule is effective June 29, 2017. Contact: Jeff Hunt; EPA Region 10, Office of Air and Waste; 206-553-0256; hunt.jeff@epa.gov

82 FR 24531 (05/30/2017)

Regulatory Update

COMMUNITY RIGHT-TO-KNOW
Toxic Chemical Release Reporting
COMMUNITY RIGHT-TO-KNOW

Notice announces the intention of the EPA to seek OMB approval for a revised information collection request regarding toxic chemical release reporting under 40 CFR 372, Subpart B, including the Toxics Release Inventory Form R, Form A Certification Statement, and Form R Schedule 1. The collection addresses annual reporting requirements for certain facilities that manufacture, process or use specified toxic chemicals in amounts above reporting threshold levels, including information relating to pollution prevention, waste management and recycling. The revisions make technical changes and adjust the total estimated respondent burden hours. Comments are due July 31, 2017. Contact: Cassandra Vail; EPA, Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics; 202-566-0753; vail.cassandra@epa.gov

82 FR 24702 (05/30/2017)

Regulatory Update

ENDANGERED SPECIES
Alaska/U.S. Navy Training Marine Mammals Incidental Take
ENDANGERED SPECIES

Notice of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Marine Fisheries Service, announces the issuance of a letter of authorization to allow the unintentional taking of marine mammals incidental to U.S. Navy training activities in the Gulf of Alaska Temporary Maritime Activities Area Study Area from May 2017 through May 2022. The letter allows the incidental take of 19 species of marine mammals during activities and time frames in the same level and type as specified in an April 27, 2017, final rule (82 FR 19530). The authorization is effective April 26, 2017, and expires April 26, 2022. Contact: Jolie Harrison; NMFS, Office of Protected Resources; 301-427-8477

82 FR 24679 (05/30/2017)

Regulatory Update

ENDANGERED SPECIES
Migratory Birds and Eagles/Federal Permit Applications and Reports
ENDANGERED SPECIES

Notice of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announces the submission of a revised information collection request to the OMB regarding federal fish and wildlife permit applications and reports for migratory birds and eagles. The collection addresses various application forms and reporting requirements the agency uses to determine applicant eligibility for activities otherwise prohibited under specified wildlife conservation laws (50 CFR 10, 13, 21 and 22). The revision consolidates two previous ICRs. Comments are due July 31, 2017. Contact: Madonna Baucum; USFWS; 703-358-2503; madonna_baucum@fws.gov

82 FR 24732 (05/30/2017)

Regulatory Update

ENDANGERED SPECIES
Texas Hornshell Endangered Listing
ENDANGERED SPECIES

Notice of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announces hearings on and the reopening of the comment period for an Aug. 10, 2016, proposed rule (81 FR 52796) to amend regulations under 50 CFR 17.11 to list the Texas hornshell, a freshwater mussel species from New Mexico and Texas, as an endangered species. The hearings are scheduled for June 13 and 15, 2017, in Laredo, Texas, and Carlsbad, N.M., respectively. Comments now are due June 29, 2017. Contact: Chuck Ardizzone; USFWS, Texas Coastal Ecological Services Field Office; 281-286-8282

82 FR 24654 (05/30/2017)

Regulatory Update

FOOD SAFETY

Color and Food Additive Petitions
FOOD SAFETY

Notice announces the intention of the Food and Drug Administration to seek OMB approval for a continuing information collection request regarding color additive petition (CAP) and food additive petition (FAP) submissions. The collection addresses CAPs and FAPs for new additive approval or additive amendments that meet specified labeling and safety requirements submitted using Form 3503. Comments are due July 31, 2017. Contact: Ila Mizrachi; FDA, Office of Operations; 301-796-7726; PRAStaff@fda.hhs.gov

82 FR 24718 (05/30/2017)

Regulatory Update

FOOD SAFETY
Food Additive Petition/Formic Acid
FOOD SAFETY

Notice of the Food and Drug Administration announces the filing of a petition by BASF Corp., of Florham Park, N.J., requesting amendments to food additive regulations under 21 CFR 573 to provide for the safe use of formic acid as a feed acidifying agent in complete poultry feeds. If the FDA determines a categorical exclusion applies, neither an environmental assessment nor an environmental impact statement is required. Contact: Chelsea Trull; FDA, Center for Veterinary Medicine; 240-402-6729; Chelsea.trull@fda.hhs.gov

82 FR 24611 (05/30/2017)

Regulatory Update

GENERAL ENVIRONMENT AND SAFETY
Department of Energy Regulatory Reform
GENERAL ENVIRONMENT AND SAFETY

Notice of the Department of Energy requests comments regarding agency regulations that may be appropriate for repeal, replacement or modification in response to Executive Order 13771 (82 FR 9339; 02/03/2017). The notice seeks comments concerning existing regulations, paperwork requirements and other regulatory obligations that can be modified or repealed. The notice also seeks regulatory reform information pursuant to Executive Order 13777 (82 FR 12285; 03/01/2017), which required agencies to establish regulatory reform task forces to evaluate existing regulations and make recommendations based on factors including impacts on job creation, necessity, effectiveness, cost-benefits and consistency with other regulatory reform initiatives. Comments are due July 14, 2017. Contact: Daniel Cohen; DOE, Office of the General Counsel; 202-586-5000; Regulatory.Review@hq.doe.gov

82 FR 24582 (05/30/2017)

Regulatory Update

GENERAL ENVIRONMENT AND SAFETY
EPA Board of Scientific Counselors Nominations
GENERAL ENVIRONMENT AND SAFETY

Notice of the EPA announces a correction to a May 25, 2017, request (82 FR 24120) for nominations of individuals to serve on the Office of Research and Development's Board of Scientific Counselors. The correction changes the date for submitting nominations. Nominations now are due June 30, 2017. Contact: Tom Tracy; EPA, Office of Research and Development; 202-564-6518; tracy.tom@epa.gov

82 FR 24703 (05/30/2017)

Regulatory Update

GENERAL ENVIRONMENT AND SAFETY
FDA Approved Information Collection Requests
GENERAL ENVIRONMENT AND SAFETY

Notice of the Food and Drug Administration announces the approval of 11 information collection requests by the OMB. The collections address current good manufacturing practice, over-the-counter drug product labeling, medical device third-party review, and categorical exclusion claims or environmental assessments submitted to the Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition. The collections also address the application for the Medical Device Fellowship Program (FDA 3608), drug labeling for cardiovascular outcome claims, and safety reporting requirements for investigational new drugs and bioavailability and bioequivalence studies in humans. In addition, the collections address Dear Health Care Provider letters, informed consent, requests for feedback on medical device submissions and the national direct-to-consumer advertising survey. Contact: Ila Mizrachi; FDA; 301-796-7726; PRAStaff@fda.hhs.gov

82 FR 24722 (05/30/2017)

Regulatory Update

GENERAL ENVIRONMENT AND SAFETY
Medical Devices and Radiological Products/Health Risk Allegations
GENERAL ENVIRONMENT AND SAFETY

Notice announces the intention of the Food and Drug Administration to seek OMB approval for a continuing information collection request regarding allegations of actual or potential health risk concerns from a medical device or radiological product or its use. The collection addresses the process for voluntary electronic submission of such allegations to the Center for Devices and Radiological Health. Comments are due July 31, 2017. Contact: JonnaLynn Capezzuto; FDA, Office of Operations; 301-796-3794

82 FR 24716 (05/30/2017)

Regulatory Update

GENERAL ENVIRONMENT AND SAFETY
Over-the-Counter Drugs/Safety and Effectiveness
GENERAL ENVIRONMENT AND SAFETY

Notice announces the intention of the Food and Drug Administration to seek OMB approval for a revised information collection request regarding the evaluation of over-the-counter (OTC) drugs

introduced into the U.S. market after OTC drug review began and OTC drug products without any marketing experience in the U.S. under the monograph process (21 CFR 330.14). The collection addresses the time and extent application for demonstrating that OTC drug conditions are eligible for inclusion in the monograph system. The collection also addresses safety and effectiveness data submission requirements, sponsor completeness statements, and sponsor withdrawal requests. The revisions incorporate new requirements under 21 CFR 330 (81 FR 84465; 11/23/2016) regarding content and format of data submissions and informal conference requests. Comments are due July 31, 2017. Contact: JonnaLynn Capezzuto; FDA, Office of Operations; 301-796-3794; PRAStaff@fda.hhs.gov

82 FR 24723 (05/30/2017)

Regulatory Update

GENERAL ENVIRONMENT AND SAFETY
Pediatric Advisory Committee and Pediatric Ethics Subcommittee Meeting
GENERAL ENVIRONMENT AND SAFETY

Notice of the Food and Drug Administration announces a meeting of the Pediatric Oncology Subcommittee of the Oncologic Drugs Advisory Committee. The agenda includes discussion of issues concerning diseases to be studied; patient populations to be included; and possible study designs in the development of the products APX-005M, PMO1183 (lurbinectedin), ASP2215 (gilteritinib), prexasertib and olaratumab for pediatric use. The meeting is scheduled for June 21-22, 2017, in Silver Spring, Md. Comments are due June 7, 2017. Contact: Lauren Tesh; FDA, Center for Drug Evaluation and Research; 301-796-9001; ODAC@fda.hhs.gov

82 FR 24720 (05/30/2017)

Regulatory Update

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS TRANSPORTATION
Unified Carrier Registration Plan Board of Directors Meeting
HAZARDOUS MATERIALS TRANSPORTATION

Notice of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration announces a meeting of the Unified Carrier Registration Plan Board of Directors to continue the development and implementation of the unified carrier registration plan and agreement. The meeting is scheduled for June 7, 2017, in Santa Fe, N.M., and via teleconference. Contact: Avelino Gutierrez; FMCSA, Unified Carrier Registration Board of Directors; 505-827-4565

82 FR 24775 (05/30/2017)

Regulatory Update

RADIATION
ACRS Advanced Power Reactor 1400 Subcommittee Meeting
RADIATION

Notice of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission announces a meeting of the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards Subcommittee on Advanced Power Reactor 1400 (APR1400). The agenda includes presentations by NRC staff and Korea Hydro & Nuclear Power Co., of Gyeongju, South

Korea, concerning Chapter 3 of the APR1400 Design Control Document regarding the design of structures, systems, components and equipment. The meeting is scheduled for June 5, 2017, in Rockville, Md. Comments are due June 5, 2017. Contact: Christopher Brown; NRC, Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards; 301-415-7111; Christopher.Brown@nrc.gov

82 FR 24746 (05/30/2017)

Regulatory Update

RADIATION
List of Approved Spent Fuel Storage Casks
RADIATION

Notice of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission confirms the effective date of a March 24, 2017, direct final rule (82 FR 14987) that amended regulations under 10 CFR 72.214 to add the TN Americas LLC NUHOMS® Extended Optimized Storage (EOS) Dry Spent Fuel Storage System to the list of approved spent fuel storage casks as Certificate of Compliance No. 1042. The rule specifies that the NUHOMS® EOS system provides horizontal storage of high burnup spent pressurized water reactor and boiling water reactor fuel assemblies in dry shielded canisters. The rule is effective June 7, 2017. Contact: Edward Lohr; NRC, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards; 301-415-0253; Edward.Lohr@nrc.gov

82 FR 24457 (05/30/2017)

Regulatory Update

RADIATION
Medical Use of Byproduct Material
RADIATION

Notice of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission announces the submission of a continuing information collection request to the OMB regarding medical use of byproduct material (10 CFR 35). The collection addresses requirements for physicians and medical institutions holding licenses authorizing the administration of byproduct material or radiation to humans to report medical events, doses to an embryo/fetus or nursing child, or leaking sources on occurrence. The collection also addresses requirements for specialty boards to submit requests for NRC recognition. Comments are due June 29, 2017. Contact: David Cullison; NRC, Office of the Chief Information Officer; 301-415-2084; INFOCOLLECTS.Resource@nrc.gov

82 FR 24750 (05/30/2017)

Regulatory Update

RADIATION
Patient Release Program Review
RADIATION

Notice of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission announces an extension of the comment period for an April 11, 2017, request for comments (82 FR 17465) on the commission's patient release program. The request provided questions that stakeholders, including the NRC's Advisory Committee on the Medical Use of Isotopes, professional organizations, physicians, patients,

patient advocacy groups, licensees, agreement states and other interested individuals, can answer to help the commission determine whether additional or alternate criteria are needed and whether to clarify the NRC's current patient release requirements. Comments now are due June 27, 2017. Contact: Donna-Beth Howe; NRC, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards; 301-415-4848; Donna-Beth.Howe@nrc.gov

82 FR 24745 (05/30/2017)

Regulatory Update

WATER

Massachusetts/Clean Water Act Stipulation and Order

WATER

Notice of the Department of Justice announces a proposed stipulation and order in United States v. NSTAR Electric Co. (Civil Action No. 16-11470-RGS), lodged on May 23, 2017, with the U.S. District Court for the District of Massachusetts. The stipulation and order resolves claims against the defendants for alleged violation of a 1989 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers permit related to the improper installation of a submarine cable across Boston Harbor, from an electrical substation in South Boston to Deer Island. The stipulation and order requires the defendants to lay a new cable and then remove, or partly remove and abandon, the existing cable. Comments are due June 29, 2017. Contact: DOJ, Environment and Natural Resources Division; 202-514-2701

82 FR 24737 (05/30/2017)

Regulatory Update

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EHS Federal Regulatory Alert

To: Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
From: Joe Pompeo - POLITICO Media
Sent: Fri 7/7/2017 9:44:23 AM
Subject: Morning Media: CNN clamor grows — NYT copy-editor culling in progress — Farewell for now, dear reader

By Joe Pompeo | 07/07/2017 05:42 AM EDT

With Cristiano Lima and Alex Weprin

A CNN REBUKE FROM BEN SMITH - We were emailing yesterday and he had some thoughts on the latest CNN debacle, in which reporter-cum-Internet-sleuth Andrew "KFILE" Kaczynski (who got his start under Smith at BuzzFeed before CNN poached him) has been mega-backlashed over a controversial line that was edited into Kaczynski's story about the Trump wrestling GIF troll.

Smith said I could share his remarks for the Morning Media crowd: "It makes me sick that they're not out there defending a great reporter who is taking all the heat for them. Editors need to have reporters' backs, and to take responsibility for screw-ups. This, and the recent firings" -- for the record, officially they were resignations -- "send a terrible signal to reporters who are trying to do their jobs." (A CNN rep last night didn't return an email asking if they'd like to respond.)

As I was saying yesterday, the KFILE controversy is a bit of a mess for CNN, which is not only at war with the president, but also trying to move past a series of recent brouhahas that have helped fuel the trumped up (and Trumped up) "fake news" fire that right-wing critics have been all too happy to ignite. As of yesterday, the unflattering press was still coming.

Lloyd Grove in The Daily Beast: "[O]thers at the cable network are increasingly apprehensive about death threats and other harassing messages targeting on-air anchors and top executives being sent on social media and harassing phone calls. The parents and wife of Andrew Kaczynski, author of the GIF story and leader of CNN's investigative K-File team, had received around 50 harassing phone calls each by Wednesday while other K-File team members had ugly messages -- apparently from Trump supporters -- left at their homes." More: "High Anxiety at CNN Amid Attacks From Trump and His Trolls"

J.K. Trotter in Gizmodo: "The backlash caught CNN by surprise -- in part, according to people familiar with the editing process, because the passage in the story that provoked the backlash had been written by a network executive as a defensive measure to explain their sourcing decision. The sources say the ongoing media morality play has been based on false assumptions about the purpose of the story, and about how a thorny reporting process had unfolded. The result is a case study in how not to avoid outrage." More: "How CNN Made Its Own Reporting Sound Like Blackmail"

DEAL KILLER? A "source familiar with President Trump's thinking" told The Daily Caller yesterday that the White House won't support the proposed merger of AT&T and Time Warner, (CNN's parent company) unless CNN gets rid of network chief Jeff Zucker, the man who made

Trump a hit with NBC's "Apprentice" years before earning a spot on the president's hit list thanks to CNN's aggressive coverage. "TheDC's source said that Zucker could be fired in order for the merger to go through." That jibes with the following tidbit in a Wednesday New York Times report: "White House advisers have discussed a potential point of leverage over their adversary, a senior administration official said: a pending merger between CNN's parent company, Time Warner, and AT&T."

NOT SO FAST! Here are some grains of salt from my colleagues Steven Overly and Margaret Harding McGill: "President Donald Trump has only limited tools for venting his often-expressed fury at CNN, even as his administration weighs whether to approve AT&T's bid to purchase the network's parent company, Time Warner. White House chief strategist Steve Bannon has pushed the idea of blocking the merger, a White House official told POLITICO on Thursday ... But the official added that Bannon hasn't mentioned the matter in recent days and that it does not appear to be at the top of his agenda. And many industry observers say Trump's Justice Department has no obvious antitrust arguments for blocking AT&T's $85 billion deal." More: "CNN parent's $85B deal at little risk from Trump"

CNN, for its part, doesn't appear to be sweating, according to HuffPost's Michael Calderone: "Inside CNN, the consensus is that the deal is likely on track, according to a network source who was not authorized to speak publicly. Still, Trump has publicly suggested that Zucker's days at the company are numbered. Zucker has also been the subject of unflattering coverage on Fox News and in the New York Post, both owned by Rupert Murdoch -- a close Trump ally whose 21st Century Fox competes with Time Warner." And on that note...

THE TIME HAS COME YOU GUYS - Today is my last day at POLITICO after a combined six years covering the media beat here and at the website formerly known as Capital New York, which was absorbed by the POLITICO empire (graciously and happily) in 2013. That makes this my final edition after 13 months of late nights and six-day work weeks. (Fun and grueling, but mostly fun.) When I started this newsletter a little over a year ago, I didn't expect it would catch fire the way it did, with tens of thousands of subscribers and a steady stream -- often more like a firehose -- of reader interaction. So, seriously....

THANK YOU!!! The kind emails I've received from so many of you over the past three weeks are what make it extra hard to give this thing up, but I also know you'll be in good hands come Monday, when my hard-charging colleague **Hadas Gold** picks up where I left off. She doesn't bite, and she looooves a juicy tip, so don't be shy: **hgold@politico.com** / **@Hadas_Gold**. As you know well by now, **Morning Media** is edited by **Alex Weprin** (**@alexweprin** / **aweprin@politico.com**) and produced with writing/reporting help from **Cristiano Lima**. (**clima@politico.com** / **@ludacristiano**). **Archives**. **Subscribe.**

STAY IN TOUCH - Starting July 17, I'll be over at **Vanity Fair** covering media for **The Hive** across a variety of platforms. To all of my sources, tipsters and publicist pals past, present and future, you can reach me going forward at **joe_pompeo@condenast.com**. (Or, of course, at my personal email address, for those of you who have it.) Now how 'bout a few final blurbs before I call it a day, yeah?

DONALD TRUMP'S GOT NOTHING ON THIS GUY - via the AP: "Gov. Paul LePage [Republican, of Maine] ... characterized the state media as 'vile,' 'inaccurate" and 'useless.' 'I just love to sit in my office and make up ways so they'll write these stupid stories because they are just so stupid, it's awful,' he told WGAN-AM on Thursday. ... In the radio interview, LePage reiterated his disdain for the media, in particular newspapers, saying 'the sooner the print press goes away, the better society will be.'"

IF THAT'S NOT A GOOD SOUND BITES SEGUE, I DON'T KNOW WHAT IS:

-- "I can't discuss the details of the situation, unfortunately, but just know that I'm as baffled as anyone by this strange turn of events." [Eric Lichtblau]

-- "So @KFILE, left to defend himself, did not write the most controversial line in the Reddit poster story" [Maggie Haberman]

-- "A year ago tdy I jumped off a cliff w/o knowing what was below.Thx to all who supported me & even 2 those who didn't. #BeFierce #SpeakUp #BU" [Gretchen Carlson]

-- "Since I got fired, of course I will entertain any job offers that come my way." [Greta Van Susteren]

NYT COPY EDITOR BLOODBATH BEGINS - Poynter's Ben Mullin reports : "One-by-one, copy editors ... are learning today [yesterday] that they won't have jobs at the newspaper once the latest round of cuts takes place and are being encouraged to apply for buyouts. ... 'People here are baffled and bitter, in part because there was some confusion at first about what the people summoned in to meet with senior editors today were being called for,' a source told Poynter. "At first, some thought it was for the promised second interview that was part of the application process for editors whose jobs are ending. It gradually became clear that this was not the case."

Executive editor Dean Baquet yesterday responded to a barrage of reader questions about the copy editor culling: "Our goal with these changes is to still have more than one set of eyes on a story, but not three or four. We have to streamline that system and move faster in the digital age. ... At the end of this process, The Times will still have more editors than any similar institution. But it will use the savings from these cuts to bring in more reporters and other journalists ... This is actually not primarily a financial issue ... If we find our report suffering, we will indeed make changes. But remember, we are not eliminating copy editing."

SNEAKY RATINGS TRICK GETS WSJ A-HED - "Boosting TV ratings is easy for networks that don't mind playing dumb," Joe Flint writes in the latest edition of the legendary front-page Journal feature. "In a game largely sanctioned by TV-ratings firm Nielsen, television networks try to hide their shows' poor performances on any given night by forgetting how to spell. That explains the appearance of 'NBC Nitely News,' which apparently aired on the Friday of Memorial Day weekend this year, when a lot of people were away from their TVs. The retitling of 'NBC Nightly News' fooled Nielsen's automated system, which listed 'Nitely' as a separate show. Hiding the May 26 program from Nielsen dramatically improved the show's average viewership that week. ... The network needn't feel defensive. ABC took its own ratings mulligan

seven times during the 2016-17 season with 'Wrld New Tonite.' CBS misspelled 'The CBS Evening News' as the 'CBS Evening Nws' 12 times this season." More: "In TV Ratings Game, Networks Try to Dissguys Bad Newz from Nielsen"

MUST READS:

-- "How the Death of a Muslim Recruit Revealed a Culture of Brutality in the Marines" [NYT Mag]

-- "America's Future Is Texas" [The New Yorker]

-- "Amelia Earhart: Does photo show she died a Japanese prisoner?" [BBC]

-- "Time Capsule That Looked Like an Old Missile Causes Bomb Scare in Manhattan" [New York/Daily Intel]

LATEST SEXUAL HARASSMENT SITUATION AT FOX - via The Los Angeles Times: "Fox Business Network host Charles Payne has been suspended while 21st Century Fox investigates sexual harassment allegations made against him, the company confirmed Wednesday night. Payne's suspension was announced by Fox Business Network following his program 'Making Money,' and shortly after the Los Angeles Times first reported the investigation. ... The allegations are the latest to hit 21st Century Fox, which has been plagued by sexual harassment charges across several units over the last year."

REVOLVING DOOR: ProPublica has raided Fortune for its latest two hires. Peter Elkind and Nick Varchaver, long-serving veterans of the Time Inc. financial magazine, are joining as a senior editor and a senior reporter, respectively. "Both will focus on coverage of the Trump administration and the President's businesses," according to an announcement. These are the latest installments in what appears to be a hiring spree at the nonprofit investigative outlet, which also has nabbed Pam Colloff and Ken Armstrong in recent months, as well as staffing up a new team in Illinois.

SLEEVE POLICE - via CBS News: "A young, female reporter recently tried to enter a guarded room known as the Speaker's lobby outside the House chamber, but her outfit was considered inappropriate because her shoulders weren't covered. She was wearing a sleeveless dress. Forced to improvise, she ripped out pages from her notebook and stuffed them into her dress's shoulder openings to create sleeves, witnesses said. An officer who's tasked with enforcing rules in the Speaker's lobby said her creative concoction still was not acceptable."

ONE LAST THING - I finally got around to reading that great Chelsea Manning profile from The New York Times Magazine last month . Has this part been reported before? "Manning told me her decision to provide the information to WikiLeaks was a practical one: She originally planned to deliver the data to The New York Times or The Washington Post, and for the last week of her leave, she dodged from public phone to public phone, calling the main office lines for both papers, leaving a message for the public editor at The Times and engaging in a frustrating conversation with a Post writer, who said she would have to know more about the

files before her editor would sign off on an article. A hastily arranged meeting with Politico, where she hoped to introduce herself to the site's security bloggers, was scrapped because of bad weather." Super interesting.

SOUNDTRACK: Sonic Youth, "Teen Age Riot"

EXTRAS:

-- Paul Farhi: "The New York Times will fly you around the world for $135,000. Is that a problem?" [WaPo]

-- Bret Stephens: "Sean Hannity Is No William F. Buckley" [NYT]

-- Erik Wemple: "Trump on Washington Post: 'fake news.' Trump on helpful Washington Post story: 'well reported.'" [WaPo]

-- "Despite the phenomenon that was the Bernie Sanders campaign, avowed socialists are not suddenly popping up on op-ed pages." [CJR]

-- The scoop on Richard Engel's new themed series. [AP]

OK for real this time. So long, folks! Thanks again for everything, and enjoy the rest of your summer.

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To: Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
From: Anna Palmer and Jake Sherman
Sent: Thur 5/25/2017 5:09:07 PM
Subject: Playbook Power Briefing, presented by the Coalition for Affordable Prescription Drugs (CAPD): RYAN says Gianforte should apologize, dodges on if Gianforte will be accepted in conference -- TRUMP's NATO critique -- TOM HANKS and MERYL STREEP visit WaPo

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Today's Playbook Power Briefing presented by the Coalition for Affordable Prescription Drugs (CAPD)
05/25/2017 01:05 PM EDT

By ANNA PALMER (anna@politico.com; @apalmerdc), JAKE SHERMAN (sherman@politico.com; @JakeSherman), DANIEL LIPPMAN (daniel@politico.com; @dlippman), ZACH MONTELLARO (zmontellaro@politico.com; @ZachMontellaro)

Good Thursday afternoon. SPEAKER PAUL RYAN said that Greg Gianforte should apologize for allegedly body-slamming a reporter by his throat but stopped short of saying he should withdraw from the election, and Ryan dodged a question about whether he'll accept him into the House Republican Conference.

"There is no time where a physical altercation should occur with the press or just between human beings. ... Should the gentleman apologize? Yes, I think he should apologize. ... There's no call for this. ... The people of the state of Montana are going decide today who they will going to send to Congress."

-- **JAKE ASKED** if he will be accepted into the House GOP Conference: "The choice will be made by the people of Montana. I do not think this is acceptable behavior. But the choice will be made by the people of Montana."

IF YOU HADN'T HEARD, it is Election Day in Montana's special election between Gianforte, the Republican (and alleged body-slammer), and Democrat Rob Quist. Gianforte has canceled his scheduled appearance on MSNBC, the network announced. Polls close at 10 p.m. Eastern time and Montana's secretary of state will post the results. http://bit.ly/2r0He0t

-- @MatthewNussbaum: "Pence campaigned in Montana for Gianforte & recorded a robo call. Today, his office is not responding to whether he stands by endorsement." ... **@SteveDaines:** "Greg Gianforte needs to apologize."

-- FROM GABE DEBENEDETTI on the ground in **HELENA, MONTANA -- "GOP keeping distance from Gianforte in Montana special election"** http://politi.co/2rZmOSQ

JOE LIEBERMAN has withdrawn from consideration for FBI director, citing the "appearance of a conflict of interest." ***More from WSJ's Rebecca Ballhaus***

http://on.wsj.com/2rZp3pm ... ***The letter*** http://bit.ly/2qnYqcD

TRUMP'S DAY IN EUROPE -- President Trump has kept busy since his meetings with European leaders this morning. He first met with new French President Emmanuel Macron and had a fairly intense handshake, according to WaPo's Philip Rucker, today's pooler: "They shook hands for an extended period of time. Each president gripped the other's hand with considerable intensity, their knuckles turning white and their jaws clenching and faces tightening." The pair then had a working lunch.

TRUMP then departed for the new NATO headquarters in Brussels at 3:59 p.m. local time. Trump and the other NATO leaders helped unveil two memorials at the new NATO HQ -- a chunk of the Berlin Wall and a piece of twisted metal from the North Tower of the World Trade Center. Per NYT's Mark Landler, another one of the day's poolers: "The section of the Wall commemorates the founding principles of NATO during the Cold War. The twisted steel commemorates Article 5, the commitment to mutual defense, invoked after the 9/11 attacks." Trump gave a speech in which he harshly criticized NATO members for not living up to a commitment to spend a certain percentage of their budget on defense.

THE MOMENT EVERYONE IS TALKING ABOUT -- POTUS said that "I have been very, very direct with Secretary Stoltenberg and members of the alliance in saying that NATO members must finally contribute their fair share and meet their financial obligations" and that it was unfair to American taxpayers. Mark says that during Trump's remarks, "the assembled leaders stole sidelong glances at each other. Prime Minister Justin Trudeau of Canada stared straight ahead." ***More from CNN's Jeremy Diamond in Brussels*** http://cnn.it/2rZ8VnY

-- @RosieGray: "Trump talked about 'the commitments that bind us together.' Did not explicitly endorse Article 5"

AFTER THE SPEECHES the leaders gathered for a photo opp, where Trump did not interact with the gathered leaders. Per Phil: "Some of the leaders interacted with one another on stage, but not Trump. He stood silently, shifting his stance at moments and looking around. ... Trump smiled for a brief moment, but otherwise kept a serious, perhaps even stern, expression on his face for the duration of the photo opp." The group then headed outside for another ceremony marking the transfer of the headquarters from the Belgian government to NATO.

****** **A message from the Coalition for Affordable Prescription Drugs (CAPD):** As list prices for brand drugs continue to rise, employers are partnering with PBMs to keep drug costs under control. In fact, every dollar an employer invests in a PBM service returns six dollars in savings. Learn more at www.affordableprescriptiondrugs.org. ******

ALSO IN EUROPE -- "How Obama not so subtly undercuts Trump," by Isaac Dovere: "When they realized Barack Obama was going to be in Berlin the same day President Donald Trump was going to be in Brussels, Angela Merkel was the one who

called the White House to break the news.

"The German chancellor had invited Obama to the event in front of the Brandenburg Gate last year, before the election. Officially part of a multi-day gathering sponsored by the Protestant church in Germany focused on youth and highlighting an exchange program between Berlin and Chicago, it was really about letting Obama boost his friend ahead of her fall re-election campaign and begin the international phase of his own post-presidency.

"But, as soon as he accepted earlier this year, it also became an integral piece of Obama's approach to Trump: present the contrast by continuing to pop up, push back on the sense that Trump's winning while barely saying a word explicitly about him. The only request the former president's aides made of the organizers of the Berlin event was it not be structured as an Obama versus Trump debate. Other than that, they said, 'the conversation can go where it will.'" http://politi.co/2r0BSSX

LEAKY SHIP -- "May to confront Trump as UK police stop sharing attack information with U.S.," by Reuters' Kate Holton and Andrew Yates: "British police stopped sharing information about the Manchester suicide bombing with the United States on Thursday after leaks to U.S. media that police said had risked compromising their investigations. Prime Minister Theresa May said she would tell U.S. President Donald Trump that intelligence shared between their two countries had to remain secure, in a rare public show of dissatisfaction with Britain's closest security ally." http://reut.rs/2r0xsf5

-- PRESIDENT TRUMP issued a statement on the leaks: "The alleged leaks coming out of government agencies are deeply troubling. These leaks have been going on for a long time and my Administration will get to the bottom of this. The leaks of sensitive information pose a grave threat to our national security. I am asking the Department of Justice and other relevant agencies to launch a complete review of this matter, and if appropriate, the culprit should be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law. There is no relationship we cherish more than the Special Relationship between the United States and the United Kingdom."

SIDELINED -- Rep. Elijah Cummings' (D-Md.) office announced that the congressman had "minimally invasive" surgery yesterday at John Hopkins Hospital to treat aortic stenosis. Per the release: "The Congressman will remain in the hospital for a few days and will return to his normal schedule thereafter."

HMM ... -- "How Alleged Russian Hacker Teamed Up With Florida GOP Operative," by WSJ's Alexandra Berzon and Rob Barry: "The hacking spree that upended the presidential election wasn't limited to Democratic National Committee memos and Clinton-aide emails posted on websites. The hacker also privately sent Democratic voter-turnout analyses to a Republican political operative in Florida named Aaron Nevins. Learning that hacker 'Guccifer 2.0' had tapped into a Democratic committee that helps House candidates, Mr. Nevins wrote to the hacker to say: 'Feel free to send any Florida

based information.'

"Ten days later, Mr. Nevins received 2.5 gigabytes of Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee documents, some of which he posted on a blog called HelloFLA.com that he ran using a pseudonym. Soon after, the hacker sent a link to the blog article to Roger Stone, a longtime informal adviser to then-candidate Donald Trump, along with Mr. Nevins' analysis of the hacked data." http://on.wsj.com/2r0IHEg

AFTERNOON READ -- "'Anyone . . . with a pulse': How a Russia-friendly adviser found his way into the Trump campaign," by WaPo's Tom Hamburger and Ros Helderman: "[W]hen Carter Page, an international businessman with an office near Trump Tower, turned up at campaign headquarters, former officials recall, Trump aides were quick to make him feel welcome. A top Trump adviser, Sam Clovis, employed what campaign aides now acknowledge was their go-to vetting process - a quick Google search - to check out the newcomer. He seemed to have the right qualifications, according to former campaign officials - head of an energy investment firm, business degree from New York University, doctorate from the University of London. Page was in. He joined a new Trump campaign national security advisory group, and, in late March 2016, the candidate pointed to Page, among others, as evidence of a foreign policy team with gravitas.

"But what the Google search had not shown was that Page had been on the FBI's radar since at least 2013, when Russian officials allegedly attempted to use him to get information about the energy business. ... 'Everyone did their best, but there was not as much vetting as there could have been," former campaign manager Corey Lewandowski said. Another longtime campaign official put it this way: 'Anyone who came to us with a pulse, a résumé and seemed legit would be welcomed.' 'We were not exactly making due diligence the highest priority,' another campaign veteran added." http://wapo.st/2rZeOkO

TRUMP INC. -- "A Top Mar-A-Lago Employee Is Quietly Doing Government Work For Trump's Foreign Trip," by BuzzFeed News' Tarini Parti: "A top Mar-a-Lago employee is also working for the government to help prepare for President Trump's visit to Taormina, Italy, for the G-7 Summit - an unconventional arrangement that further blurs the line between the president's business empire and the White House. Heather Rinkus, the guest reception manager at Trump's 'Winter White House,' is working with the president's advance and logistics team, while Trump's exclusive club, Mar-a-Lago, closes for the summer. She has an official White House email and government-issued phone, two sources familiar with Rinkus's trip told BuzzFeed News.

"An administration source confirmed to BuzzFeed News on Wednesday that Rinkus was officially listed as an advance associate for the Taormina leg of the trip and had government-issued blackberry and email." http://bzfd.it/2r1a157

SCOOPS FROM ALL OUTLETS -- "Jared Kushner and Ivanka Trump Failed to Disclose Their Multimillion-Dollar Art Collection," by artnet News' Christian Erin-

Madsen, Jeremy Olds, Renata Mosci and Sam Bloch: "Since their wedding in 2009, Jared Kushner and Ivanka Trump have amassed a formidable collection of contemporary art. The walls of the couple's $4 million Park Avenue condo are filled with works by both blue-chip and emerging artists, including Alex Israel, Dan Colen, Nate Lowman, Alex Da Corte, and David Ostrowski. ... Yet in required financial disclosures, Kushner, a senior advisor and son-in-law to President Trump, failed to report the couple's art collection. (Trump, who also holds an unpaid title in her father's administration, is considered covered by Kushner's disclosures because they are married.)

"The omission stands in contrast to disclosures from other senior members of the Trump administration. In recent months, Trump's top cabinet picks have revealed considerable art holdings as part of required financial disclosures. Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross disclosed an art collection worth at least $50 million. Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin revealed his stake in a $14.7 million Willem de Kooning painting, plus other artworks.

"Responding to an inquiry about the collection's exclusion from Kushner's financial disclosures, a lawyer advising Kushner told artnet News that the art holdings would be added to a new version of his disclosure form. 'Mr. Kushner and Ms. Trump display their art for decorative purposes and have made only a single sale,' said the lawyer in a statement issued by the White House. 'To avoid any doubt, however, they will report their art collection.'" http://artnt.cm/2r0BMuS

NEWSROOM VISITORS ON K STREET -- @DavidNakamura: "Tom Hanks, and Spielberg, are sitting in on the @washingtonpost news meeting for upcoming movie on Pentagon Papers." http://bit.ly/2rYqBA1 ... **@ngreenberg:** "Meryl Streep too"

WHERE'S YOUR NYT "TRUTH" TOTE BAG? The N.Y. Times is giving out tote bags with the slogan "Truth. It's more important now than ever" to friends of The Times and Times employees so that people can "show their support of our mission and the importance of independent journalism," according to a Times spokesman. The bags and pins that say "The truth is hard" were created for the launch of their new brand campaign in February and have also been distributed at conferences and college campuses. The N.Y. Times Store is also selling other products inspired by the ad campaign -- including framed copies of the main print ad. ***See a pic*** http://politi.co/2qO9Nhd ... ***The store*** http://nyti.ms/2qnMEij

AT THE WORLD BANK -- "World Bank's Star Economist Is Sidelined in War Over Words," by Bloomberg's Andrew Mayeda: "The World Bank's chief economist has been stripped of his management duties after researchers rebelled against his efforts to make them communicate more clearly, including curbs on the written use of 'and.' Paul Romer is relinquishing oversight of the Development Economics Group, the research hub of the Washington-based development lender, according to an internal staff announcement seen by Bloomberg. ... Romer will remain chief economist." https://bloom.bg/2qgm1k6

FOR YOUR RADAR -- MAPLE CHARM OFFENSIVE -- per Mary Lee in this afternoon's Politico Influence: "Canadians are flooding the Hill to prime the landscape before intense negotiations begin on NAFTA. The Canadian American Business Council (whose members include Amazon, Boeing, ExxonMobil, Facebook, and PhRMA), the Business Council of Canada, and other groups are flooding the zone to build relationships and raise awareness on how integrated the American and Canadian economies are. "They're taking the president seriously when he says, 'we're going to rip up NAFTA,' said Maryscott Greenwood, CEO of the Canadian American Business Council and principal at the public policy firm Dentons. 'He's got their attention.'

"According to the Canadian embassy, there have been more than 100 visits to the U.S. and/or engagements in Canada with senior U.S. officials, including President Trump, 11 Cabinet members, over 150 members of Congress and over 35 governors, since POTUS' inauguration."

REMEMBERING AL VECCHIONE -- PBS NewsHour's Joshua Barajas: "Vecchione, a longtime bastion of public broadcasting programming and the first executive producer of 'The MacNeil/Lehrer Report,' died Wednesday morning at his Bethesda, Maryland, home. He had a short bout with lung cancer, his family confirmed. He was 86. For seven years, Vecchione helmed the 'Report,' and then, in 1983, he helped oversee the show's transition as it doubled its length from a half hour to a full 60 minutes. Renamed 'The MacNeil/Lehrer NewsHour,' the extra time allowed the show to spend more time on a single story." http://to.pbs.org/2r0lZw3

SPOTTED last night at the seventh annual YoPAC event benefiting Rep. Kevin Yoder (R-Kan.) on the rooftop of the Willard Office Building, featuring Ed Lover of MTV Raps fame (the event had lots of "rap music and jungle juice," per a tipster): Reps. Adam Kinzinger (R-Ill.), Bill Huizenga (R-Mich.), Bill Shuster (R-Penn.), David Valadao (R-Calif.), Carlos Curbelo (R-Fla.), Dave Joyce (R-Ohio), Steve Scalise (R-La.), Greg Walden (R-Ore.), Andy Barr (R-Ky.), Steven Palazzo (R-Miss.), Duncan Hunter (R-Calif.), and Will Hurd (R-Texas), Nick Owens, Lenwood Brooks, Graham Hall, Chris Berardini, Thompson Moore, Alex Pfeiffer, Dan McCarthy, Jeff Strunk, Kyle Sanders, Mike Thompson and Vince Sampson.

****** **A message from the Coalition for Affordable Prescription Drugs (CAPD):** One in two Americans rely on their employers to provide health care benefits. So, employers partner with PBMs to provide access to effective medications at the most affordable price. PBMs drive savings in part by using clinical expertise to identify generic alternatives that achieve the same health outcomes for a lower price. With generics accounting for 89 percent of prescriptions filled in 2015, but only 27 percent of drug costs, that represents a savings of $227 billion across the U.S. health care system in just one year. Learn more at www.affordableprescriptiondrugs.org. ******

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EHS Federal Regulatory Alert

September 08, 2017 - Number 173

You can create a report customized by topic, jurisdiction, and date range by using the Regulatory Summaries Report Tool. The report can be generated in Excel, Word, or PDF.

Summaries

AIR
Alaska SIP/Fairbanks North Star 2006 24-Hour PM-2.5 Moderate Area Plan
AIR

Final rule of the EPA approves revisions to the Alaska SIP regarding the 2006 24-hour fine particulate matter (PM-2.5) NAAQS in the Fairbanks North Star Borough moderate PM-2.5 nonattainment area (FNSB NAA). The revisions reflect numerous state attainment plan submissions for the FNSB NAA, collectively referred to as the FNSB Moderate Plan. The agency has determined that the FNSB Moderate Plan meets the requirements for base year and projected emissions inventories; precursor demonstrations; analysis; and imposition of reasonably available control measures and reasonably available control technology level emission controls, reasonable further progress (RFP), and quantitative milestones. The rule also approves the 2017 motor vehicle emissions budgets, which are derived from an approvable RFP demonstration. In addition, the rule approves state and local rules as part of the FNSB Moderate Plan and exceptional event demonstrations. The rule is effective Oct. 10, 2017. Contact: Claudia Vaupel; EPA Region 10, Office of Air and Waste; 206-553-6121; vaupel.claudia@epa.gov. Citations: 40 CFR 52.70

82 FR 42457 (09/08/2017)

Regulatory Update

AIR
Idaho, Utah/Logan PM-2.5 Nonattainment Area Extension of Attainment Dates
AIR

Final rule of the EPA grants two, one-year extensions to the moderate attainment date for the Logan, Utah-Idaho, 2006 24-hour fine particulate matter (PM-2.5) NAAQS nonattainment area. In response to requests from Idaho and Utah, the rule extends the attainment date from Dec. 31, 2015, to Dec. 31, 2017. The nonattainment area will remain a moderate PM-2.5 area, with a moderate area attainment date of Dec. 31, 2017, and Idaho and Utah will not have to submit additional planning requirements for serious PM-2.5 nonattainment areas unless there is a failure

to attain the moderate standard by the extended date and the area is reclassified to a serious nonattainment area. The rule is effective Oct. 10, 2017. Contact: Crystal Ostigaard; EPA Region 8; 303-312-6602; ostigaard.crystal@epa.gov. Citations: 40 CFR 52

82 FR 42447 (09/08/2017)

Regulatory Update

AIR
Ohio SIP/VOC Control
AIR

Final rule of the EPA approves revisions to the Ohio SIP concerning volatile organic compound (VOC) control provisions. The revisions update the reasonably available control technology (RACT) requirements for the miscellaneous metal and plastic parts coatings source category for the Cleveland-Akron-Lorain area. The revisions also address a nitrogen oxide emissions limit at the Arcelor-Mittal Cleveland facility that the state is using as an offset in the anti-backsliding demonstration for architectural aluminum coatings. The rule is effective Oct. 10, 2017. Contact: Jenny Liljegren; EPA Region 5, Air Programs Branch; 312-886-6832; liljegren.jennifer@epa.gov. Citations: 40 CFR 52.1870

82 FR 42451 (09/08/2017)

Regulatory Update

AIR
Particulate Matter Emissions from Stationary Sources/Dry Impinger Test Method
AIR

Proposed rule of the EPA would update and clarify the dry impinger method for determining condensable particulate emissions from stationary sources (Method 202). The rule would revise requirements for the use of a field train proof blank and graduated cylinders and the configuration of the vertical condenser. The rule also would address limitations and required use of Method 202, containers, laboratory analytical balance requirements, field balance requirements, and pH measurement. In addition, the rule would address glassware cleaning procedures, reagent blanks, nitrogen purge requirements, data record requirements, method detection limits, and alternative blank procedures and correction value. If requested by Sept. 18, 2017, a hearing will be held Oct. 10, 2017, in Washington, D.C. Comments are due Nov. 7, 2017. Contact: Ned Shappley; EPA, Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards; 919-541-5225; shappley.ned@epa.gov. Citations: 40 CFR 51, Subpart BB, Appendix M

82 FR 42508 (09/08/2017)

Regulatory Update

AIR
Texas SIP/El Paso Carbon Monoxide Limited Maintenance Plan
AIR

Final rule of the EPA approves a revision to the Texas SIP. The revision consists of a second 10-year maintenance plan for the eight-hour carbon monoxide NAAQS for the El Paso area,

including the 2014 emissions inventory and a contingency plan. The rule is effective Oct. 10, 2017. Contact: Jeffrey Riley; EPA Region 6; 214-665-8542; riley.jeffrey@epa.gov. Citations: 40 CFR 52.2270

82 FR 42454 (09/08/2017)

Regulatory Update

ENDANGERED SPECIES
Nebraska/R-Project Transmission Line Incidental Take Permit
ENDANGERED SPECIES

Notice of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announces the reopening of the comment period for a May 12, 2017, notice (82 FR 22153) regarding the draft habitat conservation plan (HCP), the draft environmental impact statement (DEIS), the draft migratory bird conservation plan (MBCP), and the draft restoration management plan for an incidental take permit application from the Nebraska Public Power District, of Columbus, Neb., in connection with the construction, operation, and maintenance of the R-Project transmission line and substations in north-central Nebraska. The project consists of a 345-kilovolt transmission line that is approximately 225 miles long. The application requests an incidental take permit for 50 years for the endangered American burying beetle. The HCP describes actions to avoid, minimize, and mitigate impacts of incidental take of the beetle, the management plan outlines restoration plans for beetle habitat as well as other habitats impacted by the project, and the MBCP addresses impacts to migratory birds and bald and golden eagles. The DEIS addresses environmental impacts from the HCP and issuing the permit and from implementing the two alternatives to the proposed action. Comments now are due Nov. 7, 2017. Contact: Eliza Hines; USFWS; 308-382-6468; eliza_hines@fws.gov

82 FR 42561 (09/08/2017)

Regulatory Update

FOOD SAFETY
Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition/Regulatory Reform
FOOD SAFETY

Notice of the FDA requests comments and information concerning regulations and related paperwork requirements of the Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition that could be modified, repealed, or replaced. The comments are intended to help the agency implement Executive Order 13771 (82 FR 9339; 02/03/2017) and Executive Order 13777 (82 FR 12285; 03/01/2017), which provide guidance and direction to federal agencies to evaluate existing regulations and make recommendations based on factors including impacts on job creation, necessity, effectiveness, cost-benefits, and consistency with other regulatory reform initiatives. Comments are due Dec. 6, 2017. Contact: Karen Strambler; CFSAN; 240-402-2378; karen.strambler@fda.hhs.gov. Citations: 21 CFR 100 through 199

82 FR 42503 (09/08/2017)

Regulatory Update

GENERAL ENVIRONMENT AND SAFETY
Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research/Regulatory Reform

GENERAL ENVIRONMENT AND SAFETY

Notice of the FDA requests comments and information concerning regulations and related paperwork requirements of the Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research that could be modified, repealed, or replaced. The comments are intended to help the agency implement Executive Order 13771 (82 FR 9339; 02/03/2017) and Executive Order 13777 (82 FR 12285; 03/01/2017), which provide guidance and direction to federal agencies to evaluate existing regulations and make recommendations based on factors including impacts on job creation, necessity, effectiveness, cost-benefits, and consistency with other regulatory reform initiatives. Comments are due Dec. 6, 2017. Contact: Stephen Ripley; CBER; 240-402-7911. Citations: 21 CFR 600 through 680

82 FR 42492 (09/08/2017)

Regulatory Update

GENERAL ENVIRONMENT AND SAFETY
Center for Devices and Radiological Health/Regulatory Reform
GENERAL ENVIRONMENT AND SAFETY

Notice of the FDA requests comments and information concerning regulations and related paperwork requirements of the Center for Devices and Radiological Health that could be modified, repealed, or replaced. The comments are intended to help the agency implement Executive Order 13771 (82 FR 9339; 02/03/2017) and Executive Order 13777 (82 FR 12285; 03/01/2017), which provide guidance and direction to federal agencies to evaluate existing regulations and make recommendations based on factors including impacts on job creation, necessity, effectiveness, cost-benefits, and consistency with other regulatory reform initiatives. Comments are due Dec. 6, 2017. Contact: Erica Payne; CDRH; 301-796-3999; cdrh-regreview@fda.hhs.gov. Citations: 21 CFR 800 through 1050

82 FR 42494 (09/08/2017)

Regulatory Update

GENERAL ENVIRONMENT AND SAFETY
Center for Drug Evaluation and Research/Regulatory Reform
GENERAL ENVIRONMENT AND SAFETY

Notice of the FDA requests comments and information concerning regulations and related paperwork requirements of the Center for Drug Evaluation and Research that could be modified, repealed, or replaced. The comments are intended to help the agency implement Executive Order 13771 (82 FR 9339; 02/03/2017) and Executive Order 13777 (82 FR 12285; 03/01/2017), which provide guidance and direction to federal agencies to evaluate existing regulations and make recommendations based on factors including impacts on job creation, necessity, effectiveness, cost-benefits, and consistency with other regulatory reform initiatives. Comments are due Dec. 6, 2017. Contact: Christine Kirk; CDER; 301-796-2465; christine.kirk@fda.hhs.gov. Citations: 21 CFR 300 through 499

82 FR 42499 (09/08/2017)

Regulatory Update

GENERAL ENVIRONMENT AND SAFETY
Center for Tobacco Products/Regulatory Reform
GENERAL ENVIRONMENT AND SAFETY

Notice of the FDA requests comments and information concerning regulations and related paperwork requirements of the Center for Tobacco Products that could be modified, repealed, or replaced. The comments are intended to help the agency implement Executive Order 13771 (82 FR 9339; 02/03/2017) and Executive Order 13777 (82 FR 12285; 03/01/2017), which provide guidance and direction to federal agencies to evaluate existing regulations and make recommendations based on factors including impacts on job creation, necessity, effectiveness, cost-benefits, and consistency with other regulatory reform initiatives. Comments are due Dec. 6, 2017. Contact: Gerie Voss; CTP; 877-287-1373; gerie.voss@fda.hhs.gov. Citations: 21 CFR 1100 through 1150

82 FR 42501 (09/08/2017)

Regulatory Update

GENERAL ENVIRONMENT AND SAFETY
Environmental Impact Statements
GENERAL ENVIRONMENT AND SAFETY

Notice of the EPA announces the availability of environmental impact statements filed Aug. 28-Sept. 1, 2017. Contact: Kelly Knight; EPA, Office of Federal Activities; 202-564-2141; knight.kelly@epa.gov. Citations: 40 CFR 1506.9

82 FR 42551 (09/08/2017)

Regulatory Update

GENERAL ENVIRONMENT AND SAFETY
FDA Centers and Offices/Regulatory Reform
GENERAL ENVIRONMENT AND SAFETY

Notice of the FDA requests comments and information concerning general regulatory requirements and related paperwork requirements of multiple FDA centers and/or offices that could be modified, repealed, or replaced. The comments are intended to help the agency implement Executive Order 13771 (82 FR 9339; 02/03/2017) and Executive Order 13777 (82 FR 12285; 03/01/2017), which provide guidance and direction to federal agencies to evaluate existing regulations and make recommendations based on factors including impacts on job creation, necessity, effectiveness, cost-benefits, and consistency with other regulatory reform initiatives. Comments are due Dec. 6, 2017. Contact: Megan Velez; FDA, Office of Policy; 301-796-4830; megan.velez@fda.hhs.gov. Citations: 21 CFR 1 through 1299

82 FR 42506 (09/08/2017)

Regulatory Update

GENERAL ENVIRONMENT AND SAFETY
FDA/Self-Collection Devices for Pap Tests Workshop

GENERAL ENVIRONMENT AND SAFETY

Notice of the FDA announces a workshop to discuss self-collection devices for cervical samples for Pap tests. The workshop will include discussion of the current status of cervical cancer screening and the feasibility, benefits, and risks of self-collection devices. The workshop also will include a focus on the impact of self-collection of cervical samples on the current standard of care and the regulatory environment for supporting self-collection for Pap tests. The workshop is scheduled for Jan. 11, 2018, in Silver Spring, Md., and via webcast. Comments are due Feb. 14, 2018. Contact: Shyam Kalavar; FDA, Center for Devices and Radiological Health; 301-796-6807; Shyam.Kalavar@fda.hhs.gov

82 FR 42557 (09/08/2017)

Regulatory Update

GENERAL ENVIRONMENT AND SAFETY
Florida/Broward and Miami-Dade Counties Combined Operational Plan
GENERAL ENVIRONMENT AND SAFETY

Notice announces the intention of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to prepare an environmental impact statement for the combined operational plan for Broward and Miami-Dade counties in Florida. The plan will define operations for constructed features of modified water deliveries to Everglades National Park and Canal 111 South Dade Projects while maintaining congressionally authorized purposes of the Central and Southern Florida Project, including flood control; water supply for agricultural irrigation, municipalities, and industry; regional groundwater control and prevention of saltwater intrusion; enhancement of fish and wildlife; and recreation. The plan is intended to increase the availability of water deliveries from Water Conservation Area 3A to Everglades National Park through Northeast Shark River Slough and improve hydrologic conditions in Taylor Slough, the Rocky Glades, and the eastern panhandle of Everglades National Park. The draft EIS is expected to be available in 2019. A comment due date is not specified. Contact: Melissa Nasuti; USACE, Jacksonville District; 904-232-1368; melissa.a.nasuti@usace.army.mil

82 FR 42547 (09/08/2017)

Regulatory Update

GENERAL ENVIRONMENT AND SAFETY
Oregon, Washington/Lower Columbia River Federal Navigation Channel Project
GENERAL ENVIRONMENT AND SAFETY

Notice announces the intention of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, to jointly prepare with sponsor ports in Oregon and Washington state, an integrated environmental impact statement and maintenance plan for the Lower Columbia River Federal Navigation Channel (FNC) to increase dredged material for maintenance of the FNC for the next 20 years. The project includes a 43-foot deep main channel and extends from Columbia River, River Mile (RM) 3 to Vancouver, Wash., RM 105.5. The project also extends into lower Oregon Slough and includes vessel turning basins at Astoria, Ore., and Kalama, Longview, and Vancouver, Wash. Comments are due Nov. 16, 2017. Contact: Kate Wells; USACE; 503-808-4664; ColumbiaNavChannel@usace.army.mil

82 FR 42548 (09/08/2017)

Regulatory Update

OIL AND GAS INDUSTRY

Colonial Pipeline/Reid Vapor Pressure Temporary Waiver

OIL AND GAS INDUSTRY

Notice of FERC announces the receipt of an emergency request from Valero Energy Corp. and Valero Marketing and Supply Co. to direct or allow Colonial Pipeline Co. to temporarily waive Reid vapor pressure (RVP) product specifications for conventional and reformulated gas that are inconsistent with EPA's Aug. 31, 2017, waiver of RVP fuel requirements due to Hurricane Harvey. Protests and motions to intervene are due Sept. 7, 2017. Contact: FERC, Office of External Affairs; 866-208-3676; FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov

82 FR 42550 (09/08/2017)

Regulatory Update

PESTICIDES

Pesticide Tolerances

PESTICIDES

Proposed rule of the EPA would revoke revoke certain tolerances for numerous pesticides, including carbon disulfide, dichlobenil, oxydemeton-methyl, propachlor, and thiodicarb. The rule also would revoke a tolerance exemption for insecticidal uses of d-limonene; establish two tolerance exemptions to cover both the existing insecticidal and herbicidal uses of d-limonene; harmonize certain tolerances for aluminum tris (O-ethylphosphonate) and cyromazine with international maximum residue limits; and update crop groupings or subgroupings for O-ethylphosphonate, cyromazine, isoxaben, and sulfentrazone. In addition, the rule would modify certain tolerances for O-ethylphosphonate and cyromazine; establish a cherry tolerance for dichlobenil and a tolerance exemption for tartrazine; revise the tolerance expressions for p-chlorophenoxyacetic acid and dichlobenil; and delete expired tolerances for disulfoton. Finally, the rule would revise the listing of a tolerance for forthiacloprid and update the listing of significant figures for certain existing tolerances of specific pesticide active ingredients. Comments are due Nov. 7, 2017. Contact: Joseph Nevola; EPA, Office of Pesticide Programs; 703-308-8037; nevola.joseph@epa.gov. Citations: 40 CFR 180.183 through 180.1343 (nonconsecutive)

82 FR 42531 (09/08/2017)

Regulatory Update

WATER

Addressing Cyber Risks at Maritime Transportation Security Act Regulated Facilities

WATER

Notice of the U.S. Coast Guard announces an extension of the comment period for a July 12, 2017, notice (82 FR 32189) regarding the draft Navigation and Inspection Circular (05-17) guidance for addressing cyber risks at Maritime Transportation Security Act regulated facilities. The document clarifies existing requirements under the MTSA to incorporate analysis of computer and cyber risks and provides guidance for addressing those risks. The document also addresses incorporation of cybersecurity risks into an effective facility security assessment and policies and procedures that may reduce cyber risk to operators of maritime facilities. The

document may be used as a benchmark to develop and implement measures and activities for effective self-governance of cyber risks. Comments now are due Oct. 11, 2017. Contact: Jason Warren; USCG; 202-372-1106; Jason.S.Warren@uscg.mil

82 FR 42560 (09/08/2017)

Regulatory Update

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EHS Federal Regulatory Alert

To: Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
From: InsideEPA/climate
Sent: Mon 7/3/2017 7:03:23 PM
Subject: Today on Climate Beat

July 3, 2017

Today on Climate Beat . . .

. . . we took a different view, reporting that one libertarian observer suggests that the Trump administration's "red team, blue team" approach to refine climate science could create an "opportunity" to shift Republicans' view of the science, despite sharp criticism of the idea from environmentalists and scientists.

In Paris news, a new Congressional Research Service report finds possible fiscal savings from President Donald Trump's decision to withdraw the United States from the Paris climate agreement but potential negative impacts on domestic businesses that export clean technology to developing countries.

Speaking of Congress, Maine's two senators are re-introducing legislation that would expand tax credits for renewables to include biomass-generated power, with the effort winning early praise from a biomass industry group.

And our daily news roundup looked at recent remarks from former President Barack Obama bemoaning his successor's lack of "leadership" on climate change.

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To: Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
From: Bloomberg BNA Environment & Energy
Sent: Mon 11/13/2017 12:04:29 PM
Subject: First Move: Brown Coloring Bonn • Taxing Debate Ahead on Alaska Refuge Drilling

What you need to know to start your day.

Brown Coloring Bonn • Taxing Debate Ahead on Alaska Refuge Drilling

By Chuck McCutcheon

Heads of state—not state governors—often take center stage at international conferences. But California's chief executive, Jerry Brown, is a constant presence at the U.N. climate talks in Bonn, which wrap up this week.

The 79-year-old Democrat has made more than a dozen appearances at various events to highlight what he says is an urgent need for action on climate change in the wake of President Trump's decision to pull the U.S. out of the Paris Agreement. This week, Brown is scheduled as keynote speaker or panelist at several more sessions, including a:

- forum with other Democratic governors on state-driven climate leadership;
- panel on a global summit that he'll host next September in San Francisco; and
- forum organized by China on a carbon-emissions trading program. California has such a program and China is looking to start its own.

California Gov. Jerry Brown attends an energy summit in China in June.
Fred Dufour/AFP/Getty Images

State Department negotiators are representing the Trump administration at the Bonn talks, which also feature a contingent of Democratic pro-Paris pact senators. Dean Scott is covering the talks, which business groups hope includes progress on carbon trading and other market mechanisms to address climate that were included in the Paris pact.

Republicans have tried for decades to allow drilling for oil in Alaska's Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. This week, their work begins in earnest over whether they can do so as part of the GOP's massive tax-cut plan.

Alaska Republican Lisa Murkowski, head of the Senate energy committee, will oversee a panel markup on Wednesday concerning her plan. Unveiled last week, the proposal would bring the government almost $1.1 billion during the next decade

from leasing out a section of the refuge for drilling.

There's little doubt that Murkowski has enough votes in her committee to bring the measure to the Senate floor, where—under budget rules—she and other drilling supporters need only a majority, not the 60 votes required on most Senate legislation. The still-unanswered question is whether Democrats who abhor the idea can persuade enough Republicans to join them. Alan Kovski is covering.

Other Stories We're Covering

- Trump's pick to head the federal mine safety agency is likely to get a Senate vote this week. Stephen Lee is watching.
- The National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners is gathering in Baltimore with an agenda of speakers that include FERC Commissioner Robert Powelson and Travis Fisher of the Energy Department's electricity reliability office. Rebecca Kern will cover those, while David Schultz will cover developments on water utility issues.
- The National Clean Water Law Seminar, to occur Tuesday through Thursday in Savannah, Ga., will look at legal and regulatory challenges the clean water sector faces. Amena H. Saiyid is tracking.
- FERC commissioners will hold their monthly meeting on Thursday amid continued discussion about the energy storage rulemaking request it's considering from the Energy Department. Rebecca Kern is monitoring.
- Energy has become one of the points of contention in the congressional debates between House Republicans and Senate Republicans over what their final tax bill should look like. Bloomberg News and Bloomberg Environment are following.
- U.S. investment executives will join Mexican business officials and regulators at the Platts 21st Annual Mexican Energy Conference in Mexico City. Emily Pickrell is covering.

Quote of the Day

"Don't you have some duty to act? That's the level best the EPA can do?"
—Federal appeals judge Patricia Millett, addressing the Trump administration about toxic pollution standards for brick kilns. Those standards were to have been issued in 2000; the EPA has sought two extra years to review them.

This Week's Events

On the Hill

- **Tuesday, 9:30 a.m. • Hurricanes** • Senate energy committee holds hearing on hurricane recovery efforts.
- **Tuesday, 10 a.m. • Bills** • Senate environment committee's clean air and nuclear safety panel holds hearing on various bills addressing emissions

standards and other issues.

- **Tuesday, 10 a.m. • Hurricanes** • House energy committee's environment panel hold hearing on hurricane response and recovery.
- **Tuesday, 2 p.m. • Hurricanes** • House Natural Resources Committee holds hearing on hurricane recovery, focusing on transparency in financial accountability.
- **Wednesday, 10 a.m. • Air Emissions** • Senate environment committee holds hearing on reducing air emissions through innovation.

Elsewhere

- **Monday, 2 p.m. • Fuel Efficiency** • Environmental & Energy Study Institute sponsors webcasted briefing on how high-octane, low-carbon fuel can enable fuel-economy compliance.
- **Monday, 2 p.m. • Carbon Capture** • U.S. Energy Association host forum featuring Energy Department official and others on ways for government and industry to fund coal-based power generation and carbon capture, utilization, and storage technologies.
- **Wednesday, 8 a.m. • Energy** • West Virginia Democratic Sen. Joe Manchin, FERC Chairman Neil Chatterjee, and others speak at CQ News/Roll Call forum on energy policy.
- **Wednesday, 9:15 a.m. • Ozone** • Ozone Transport Commission meets jointly with Mid-Atlantic Northeast Visibility Union to discuss reducing ozone and regional haze.
- **Wednesday, 10 a.m. • ARPA-E** • Information Technology & Innovation Foundation holds forum on the Energy Department's advanced research projects office's role in clean energy innovation.
- **Thursday, 10 a.m. • Carbon Emissions** • Virginia's Air Pollution Control Board meets to discuss the Clean Energy Virginia carbon-reduction standard.

Around the Web

- FEMA is caught in the middle of the political debates over climate change science and the need to plan for future extreme weather events.
- Another veteran House Republican—Virginia's Bob Goodlatte, the Judiciary Committee chairman and a critic of mandating ethanol for gasoline—is calling it quits following a Democratic-dominated election in his state.
- Congress's investigative arm should review EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt's advisory board choices, Senate Democrats say.

For all of today's Bloomberg Environment headlines, visit Environment & Energy Report

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To: Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
From: POLITICO
Sent: Tue 5/30/2017 11:19:02 AM
Subject: BREAKING NEWS: Mike Dubke, Trump's communications director, has resigned

Mike Dubke, President Donald Trump's communications director, has resigned, Dubke told POLITICO.

The veteran GOP strategist resigned on May 18, and Trump accepted immediately, Dubke said, adding that he offered to stay through the president's first foreign trip to ensure there was a smooth transition as he exited.

Read more: http://www.politico.com/story/2017/05/30/mike-dubke-trumps-communications-director-has-resigned-238931

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To: Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
From: POLITICO
Sent: Mon 6/19/2017 2:43:49 PM
Subject: BREAKING NEWS: Supreme Court throws out bulk of suit by post-9/11 detainees

The Supreme Court has thrown out the bulk of a lawsuit from post-September 11 detainees who claimed they were unlawfully detained and abused in federal immigration custody in New York City.

A depleted bench of justices ruled, 4-2, that the suit could not go forward against three former high ranking Justice Department officials who were accused of setting illegal policies that led to the prolonged detention of hundreds of foreigners.

The court's majority said a suit for money damages in such circumstances could not proceed without authorization from Congress.

The justices allowed the suit to continue against the warden at the Metropolitan Detention Center, but solely over allegations of direct physical and mental abuse, including slamming prisoners into walls and referring to them as terrorists.

The justices who took part in the ruling split along partisan lines, with Republican appointees ruling to limit the litigation and Democratic ones rejecting such limits.

Justices Elena Kagan, Sonia Sotomayor and Neil Gorsuch did not take part in the case.

Read more: http://www.politico.com/story/2017/06/19/supreme-court-throws-out-bulk-of-suit-by-post-9-11-detainees-239713

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To: Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
From: POLITICO Pro Energy
Sent: Fri 7/7/2017 9:43:11 AM
Subject: Morning Energy, presented by ExxonMobil: U.S., G-20 near détente over climate language — Perry's economics gaffe sets Internet afire — Pruitt takes the Southeast

By Anthony Adragna | 07/07/2017 05:41 AM EDT

With help from Eric Wolff, Tim Starks and Kalina Oroschakoff

U.S., G-20 NEAR COMPROMISE ON CLIMATE: Two days of contentious meetings between the G-20 nations kick off today in Hamburg, Germany, but the U.S. and the rest of the nations are nearing a compromise agreement — or at least agreeing to disagree — on one of the thorniest issues facing world leaders: climate change, POLITICO's Andrew Restuccia reports . A senior diplomat involved with the talks tells Andrew there's increasing optimism countries can settle on language in which the U.S. underscores its intent to withdraw from the Paris climate agreement while the other nations emphasize their support for the pact. "It seems that the G-19 is all on board," the diplomat said.

There had been concern that some fossil fuel-dependent countries in the G-20 might hesitate to forcefully back the Paris agreement, but the current draft would be a significant win for German Chancellor Angela Merkel and other leaders who support action to tackle climate change. And the draft language leaves room for the U.S. to write a new domestic emissions reduction plan and then announce plans to stay in the agreement under those new terms, something President Donald Trump could frame as a victory while pleasing allies. But a word of caution: The text remains fluid and could be renegotiated depending on how the next 48 hours go.

Speaking of the U.S., California Gov. Jerry Brown announced Thursday his state would host the Global Climate Action Summit in San Francisco in September 2018. "President Trump is trying to get out of the Paris Agreement, but he doesn't speak for the rest of America," Brown said in video remarks to the Global Citizen Festival in Germany. "We in California and in states all across America believe it's time to act." The California governor has ramped up his already aggressive climate efforts in the aftermath of Trump's decision to leave the Paris accord, traveling to China to reinforce his state's commitment to action, and now can boast that the summit will be the first international climate event hosted by a state.

Another big ask: Some of Europe's largest lenders and insurers — grouped together as the European Financial Services Round Table — want G-20 leaders to push for the "timely and homogenous implementation" of the corporate disclosure recommendations, POLITICO Europe's Bjarke Smith-Meyer reports. The industry heavyweights also want leaders to introduce other measures to promote the energy and investment shift, including carbon pricing and a phase out of fossil fuel subsidies.

THAT'S... NOT HOW THAT WORKS: The internet exploded Thursday after Energy Secretary Rick Perry goofed on a basic economic principle during remarks at a West Virginia coal plant. "Here's a little economics lesson: supply and demand. You put the supply out there and the demand will follow," Perry said, according to Taylor Kuykendall, an S&P Global

reporter at the event. Seems more like the plot of "Field of Dreams" rather than sound economic policy to ME. Samples of media response here, here, here and here. Perry's trip continues today at the National Energy Technology Laboratory site in Pittsburgh, which he'll tour along with Rep. Tim Murphy.

WELCOME TO FRIDAY! I'm your host Anthony Adragna, and that's a shortened week almost in the books! DOE's Marty Dannenfelser was first to identify Lincoln, Neb. as the state capital that shares its name with a tunnel underneath the Hudson River, an American luxury automobile brand, and a DC restaurant. For today: How many state capitals have the word "city" in them? Send your tips, energy gossip and comments to aadragna@politico.com, or follow us on Twitter @AnthonyAdragna, @Morning_Energy, and @POLITICOPro.

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YES, AGAIN, (MAYBE) RUSSIA: Two new reports are shedding light on recently revealed cyber attacks that have been infiltrating U.S. nuclear power stations. Bloomberg reported that Russia is the chief suspect, and that hackers have also infiltrated a company that makes control systems for the power industry, apparently a related attack. The New York Times first identified one of the companies attacked: the Wolf Creek Nuclear Nuclear Operating Corp., which runs a plant in Kansas.

The Homeland Security Department and FBI have reportedly been working to eject the hackers from the networks, and produced a joint alert. "The Department of Homeland Security and the Federal Bureau of Investigation are aware of a potential cyber intrusion affecting entities in the energy sector," the two agencies said in a joint statement late Thursday. "There is no indication of a threat to public safety, as any potential impact appears to be limited to administrative and business networks. In furtherance of public-private partnerships, the FBI and DHS routinely advise private industry of various cyber threat indicators in order to help systems administrators guard against the actions of persistent cyber criminals."

PRUITT'S SOUTHEAST SWING: EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt is in Georgia today with Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue for an event on using agency resources to promote stewardship. That comes after he toured several facilities in Alabama with Sen. Luther Strange , his former attorney general buddy-turned-senator. They toured the Plant Gaston in Wilsonville, Ala., where Pruitt discussed the Clean Power Plan with employees and saw the DOE-affiliated National Carbon Capture Center research facility, which experiments with carbon-capture technologies. After that, the federal officials stopped by Brentwood Farm in Mooresville, where they spoke with Alabama Farm Federation members about the Waters of the U.S. regulation, which EPA has begun the process of rescinding (pic with large bales of hay and tractor here).

Pruitt's takeaway: "It's not the EPA's job to say to people across the country, 'Don't touch that. Don't use that,'" he told an Alabama radio show. "It's our job to say as you develop and produce and generate electricity, this is the latest and greatest technology that should be used to achieve good emissions outcomes." Pruitt added his efforts to restore "a sense of focus" was already "making a difference" around the country.

KIGALI BACKERS PLAY IT COOL, BOY, REAL COOL: In January, while everyone was scrambling to figure out what the Trump administration would look like, backers of an international agreement struck in Kigali, Rwanda to curb global warming-causing coolants had a plan: Lay low, avoid headlines, let the administration staff up, and see where things are in 2018. "I think our position basically remains stable," said Joe Trauger, VP for policy and government relations for the Air Conditioning, Heating and Refrigeration Institute. "We're engaged in education efforts."

AHRI wants the amendment to the Montreal Protocol ratified — its provisions will boost AHRI's members — but the group doesn't want the deal, which could hold back half a degree of warming, to get thrown out by the White House. To that end, it has avoided meeting with any administration officials, including Secretary of State Rex Tillerson or his chief of staff. The group is in touch with career staff while it waits for Trump to appoint some key assistant secretaries. "We're working with some folks at the State Department to make sure we're in touch with them and able to communicate at the right time," Trauger said.

Stay cool locally, stay real cool globally: Simultaneously boosting the energy efficiency of air conditioners and other cooling equipment while moving toward more climate-friendly alternative refrigerants would avoid an additional 100 billion tons of carbon dioxide, according to a report out today. Prepared by the Institute for Governance & Sustainable Development and written by researchers at Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, the report finds those additional reductions could come on top of the estimated 100 billion tons of carbon dioxide reductions stemming from the agreement to limit global warming-inducing coolants. "The HFC phase out creates an important opportunity for U.S. industry to expand markets, and efficiency gains can save consumers billions in AC electricity costs, all while reducing global emissions on a monumental scale," Paul Bledsoe, a lecturer at American University's Center for Environmental Policy, said in a statement.

** **Presented by ExxonMobil**: Biofuel refined from algae could transform how we power automobiles and jet planes. It's energy-rich and emits significantly less CO_2 than most transportation fuels. And it doesn't compete with food and fresh water supplies. We're actively researching this technology to move it from the petri dish to the fuel tank: EnergyFactor.com**

EPA TARGETS BIOFUEL IMPORTS AND BIODIESEL, HUH? EPA wants to cut imports of biofuels, but the biodiesel and advanced biofuels industries are mystified as to why it's getting into that arena, Pro's Eric Wolff reports . EPA cut back advanced biofuels, and it's inviting comment on cutting back advanced biodiesel, all in the interest of reducing imports from Argentina, Indonesia and Brazil. The National Biodiesel Board has a case against Argentina and Indonesia under investigation by the Commerce Department now, and biodiesel producers see that as a separate process from EPA. "It's not really their purview," said Gene Gebolys, CEO of biodiesel producer World Energy. "It's a strange logic — What makes one conclude that by holding volumes down, it will reduce imports? That makes a logic assumption that says the imports are the last in the door, and that's not the case."

Will it calm the RIN-sanity? Advanced biodiesel plays a critical role in meeting RFS targets,

thanks to the system of "nesting" which allows refiners to buy biodiesel credits to comply with the conventional biofuel mandate. If victorious, duties on imported biodiesel will likely drive up prices for credits across the board, Neelesh Nerurkar a vice president at ClearView Energy partners. However, EPA's reduction in the advanced and thus overall fuel requirement could relieve some of that pressure. "It helps mitigate some of the potential cost impact," he told ME.

NEW KEYSTONE CAMPAIGN LAUNCHED: Bold Nebraska, 350.org, Indigenous Environmental Network, CREDO, and Oil Change International launched a new push Thursday to install solar arrays along the route of the proposed Keystone XL pipeline in Nebraska. The groups hope to crowdsource funding for the installations ahead of the August public hearings Nebraska Public Service Commission about Keystone's proposed route through the state. "Putting solar panels in the path of Keystone XL is a local effort that mirrors the future we want to see at a massive scale," Sara Shor with 350.org said in a statement.

MAIL CALL! SENATORS PUSH FOR GAO PROBE OF PANELS! Ten Democratic senators, led by Sheldon Whitehouse, asked GAO in a Thursday letter to look at whether EPA is properly following procedures to ensure its scientific advisory panels are independent and balanced. In particular, the senators asked GAO to look at how EPA's procedures for selecting panel members compared to other agencies, how current compositions of the panels compare to previous ones and how previous administrations handled the reappointment and nomination process. EPA has declined to reappoint many current scientific advisers and suspended meetings of the Board of Scientific Counselors for the rest of the year while it decides whether to replace panel members.

GRIJALVA PRESSES ZINKE ON ENERGY DOMINANCE: House Natural Resources ranking member Raul Grijalva sent Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke a letter Thursday seeking information on how the administration's pursuit of "energy dominance" does not interfere with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act requirements to manage public lands "on the basis of multiple use and sustained yield." Grijalva also requested a definition of "energy dominance" and how the agency would measure when it has been achieved.

GREENS: WE NEED MORE TIME ON WOTUS: Nineteen environmental and public health groups asked Pruitt in a letter Thursday to extend the comment period on the proposed rule to rescind the Waters of the U.S. regulation to no less than six months. "Your planned 30-day comment period disregards the more than one million people who participated in the development of that rule and is a grossly inadequate amount of time for stakeholders to meaningfully engage in this rulemaking process," the groups, including the League of Conservation Voters, Clean Water Action and the Sierra Club, wrote.

STEELWORKERS NO FANS OF E15: The United Steelworkers fear Sen. Deb Fischer's bill to allow year-round sale of 15 percent ethanol fuel could allow more smog. The union sent a letter Thursday to all 100 senators arguing that the RFS needs a complete overhaul rather than the modification in Fischer's bill. The letter is a sign that lobbying on a bill to advance Fisher's bill out of committee is ramping up — Fischer and company need to convince six undecided EPW Democrats in order to advance the bill.

HANDS OFF THE ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT: Four hundred and twenty-five conservation groups sent a letter Thursday to House and Senate leadership urging them not to entertain any efforts to "modernize" or otherwise tweak the Endangered Species Act. "The Endangered Species Act is a profoundly popular law that represents fundamental American principles," the letter, signed by groups like 350.org, Citizens' Climate Lobby and Greenpeace, says.

INTERESTING NEVADA TIDBIT: Buried deep in The Nevada Independent's announcement of Rep. Jacky Rosen's Senate bid against Dean Heller is that Rosen would have opposed Rick Perry's nomination to run DOE given his efforts to revive Yucca Mountain. Both Heller and Catherine Cortez Masto supported Perry's confirmation back in March. Rosen vowed to fight "tooth and nail" against Yucca, which Heller also vocally opposes.

FEDERAL EMPLOYEE GUILTY OF EMBEZZLEMENT: An employee with the Bureau of Indian Education, Wilma Garcia, fraudulently issued multiple checks — amounting to $24,031.99 — to various family members, an Interior IG report found. Garcia was "remorseful" for her actions and received five years' probation.

Those charges were far less salacious than other, ultimately "unfounded" allegations that the death of an USGS employee was due to "criminal negligence" by a trip leader during a research river trip in Grand Canyon National Park by ignoring signs of heat exhaustion. The investigation in that case found "no evidence of criminal conduct by the trip leader" or support for allegations federal agencies "conspired to alter facts when preparing their final reports" of the incident.

TROUBLED NUCLEAR GIANT HIRES BIG GUNS: Westinghouse Electric Co. has brought on Squire Patton Boggs for help "managing bankruptcy proceedings on Capitol Hill," according to disclosure documents posted this week. Among the lobbying giant's VIPs working on behalf of the nuclear company: former Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott; former Louisiana Sen. John Breaux and David Schnittger, former Speaker John Boehner's longtime deputy chief-of-staff.

MOVER, SHAKER: The National Rural Electric Cooperative is bringing on Bobby Hamill as a legislative affairs manager, working on generation and transmission issues. He was previously legislative director for Rep. Morgan Griffith (R-Va.) (h/t POLITICO Influence).

Ben Somberg has joined the Alliance to Save Energy as communications manager responsible for developing and executing communications strategies; he was previously press secretary for the American Association for Justice.

QUICK HITS

— Buffett's Berkshire Nears Deal to Buy Electric-Grid Giant Oncor for More Than $17.5 Billion. Wall Street Journal.

— Sen. Strange: Allegations against him are 'fake news'. Fox6.

— How Colorado Lured the Biggest Trade Show in the Outdoor Industry. Outside.

— Oil Closes Below $46 as U.S. Output Gain Offsets Stockpile Drop. Bloomberg.

— Alberta regulators charge Nexen Energy over 2015 pipeline spill. Reuters.

— Coastal Commission moves briefing on San Onofre nuclear waste to San Diego. San Diego Union-Tribune.

HAPPENING TODAY

No energy events scheduled.

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To view online:
https://www.politicopro.com/tipsheets/morning-energy/2017/07/us-g-20-near-detente-over-climate-language-023629

Stories from POLITICO Pro

U.S., other G-20 nations near compromise on climate Back

By Andrew Restuccia | 07/06/2017 07:06 PM EDT

The United States and other major economies are nearing a compromise on climate change, one of the thorniest issues facing world leaders at the G-20 summit in Germany.

After days of preliminary talks, G-20 negotiators are increasingly hopeful they can settle on a joint communique in which the United States underscores its intent to withdraw from the Paris climate agreement while the other nations emphasize their support for the pact, according to a senior diplomat involved in the discussions.

Diplomats stressed that the text remains fluid and could be rewritten at the insistence of President Donald Trump and other world leaders, who will join the closed-door discussions in Hamburg over the next 48 hours.

But if it holds, the unity among the 19 other members of the G-20 would be a coup for German Chancellor Angela Merkel and other leaders who support strong action to tackle climate change. And it would further isolate the United States on the issue, underscoring that it is one of the few

countries in the world that don't back the 2015 Paris deal.

There has long been speculation that fossil fuel-dependent countries in the G-20 might hesitate to forcefully back the Paris agreement, and that nations like Turkey and Saudi Arabia might refuse to sign on to a separate action plan that details steps countries should take to reduce their emissions.

Instead, diplomats said, both countries are expected to join other nations in endorsing the Paris deal and backing the action plan — unless the tone of the talks shifts dramatically in the coming days. The action plan, which was written by German officials and will be referenced in the communique, is the product of months of negotiation, and some news reports say it was watered down in an attempt to win broader support.

"It seems that the G-19 is all on board," the diplomat said.

The joint communique will include several paragraphs on energy and climate issues, including a U.S.-backed section touting sustainability and the importance of improving energy security, according to diplomats and drafts reviewed by POLITICO.

According to new language shared with POLITICO, the communique will "take note" of the U.S. decision to withdraw from the Paris agreement and to "immediately cease the implementation" of former President Barack Obama's domestic emissions reduction plan, known in United Nations jargon as a "nationally determined contribution."

The draft says the U.S. is committed to an "approach that ... lowers emissions while supporting economic growth and improving energy security needs." An earlier draft used the phrase "global approach," but the latest version removed the word "global" because countries worried it left room for some nations to form an alternative international mechanism to reduce emissions beyond the Paris agreement.

"Given the importance of energy access and security in the nationally determined contributions of other countries, the United States of America will endeavor to work closely with other partners to help their access to and use of fossil fuels more cleanly and efficiently and help deploy renewable and other clean energy sources," the draft continues.

As it stands, the U.S.-centric portion of the communique is incorporated into the full text, rather than added as a footnote as it was in a statement issued at the close of a June G-7 meeting of environmental ministers.

The current G-20 draft communique includes some new hints at the Trump administration's Paris strategy. Trump's June announcement that he intends to withdraw from the agreement left many foreign diplomats scratching their heads, unsure about the United States' next steps.

One diplomat told POLITICO that the draft communique language leaves room for the U.S. to write a new domestic emissions reduction plan and then announce plans to stay in the agreement under those new terms. Trump could frame the decision as a victory, while also pleasing U.S.

allies.

In conversations with diplomats, some in the Trump administration have indicated that the president is open to that approach. But it remains unclear what the president will ultimately decide.

Still, outside experts and climate advocates say any broad show of support for Paris and Germany's climate action plan will be a reminder that Trump is increasingly on his own when it comes to climate change.

"That's really the top line on what's important coming out of this: another clear indication that the U.S. has isolated itself and is falling back while the other major parties step up and compete in the clean energy marketplace worth trillions of dollars," said former State Department climate change adviser Andrew Light, now a senior fellow at the World Resources Institute.

To view online click here.

Back

Backers of HFC pact drop climate angle, cast Kigali as a trade boost Back

By Eric Wolff | 01/30/2017 05:00 AM EDT

Supporters of an international agreement to limit global warming-inducing coolants are shifting their message to convince President Donald Trump to support it: It's a trade deal, not a climate change pact.

Both environmentalists and industry fear that Trump, who has dismissed climate change science, will rush to dump the amendment to the Montreal Protocol agreed in Kigali, Rwanda last year that would reduce the use of hydrofluorocarbons. But industry is wholeheartedly behind the deal, since it will enable U.S. manufacturers of air conditioning and refrigerants to sell a new generation of equipment to a global market.

"From a public messaging perspective, for the sake of the broader coalition, this a strategic trade initiative to advance U.S. competitiveness to help capture global market share, to help shut out the Chinese, and that provides environmental and climate co-benefits as well as co-benefits for economic development," said Dave Banks, executive vice president at American Council for Capital Formation, a nonpartisan group that aims to be a liaison between government and the business community.

Trump has not indicated whether he supports the deal, which his administration would need to submit to the Senate for approval.

Still, a strategy to frame the Kigali agreement to Trump as a trade deal comes with its own risks, since the new president has already pulled the U.S. out of the TPP and vowed to reopen NAFTA,

and instead favors bilateral trade deals.

The shift in message would mark a stark change from former President Barack Obama's touting of the agreement as one part of a trifecta of climate agreements, along with the Paris agreement and a deal on aviation emissions. The agreement struck in October would limit the use of HFCs in air conditioning and refrigeration. Those coolants have many times the heat-trapping properties of carbon dioxide, though they don't remain in the atmosphere as long, and reducing them could hold down climate change by 0.5° C [0.9° F] by 2100.

The amendment to the Montreal Protocol, first agreed to in 1987 to limit ozone-destroying chemicals, would drive a global push toward the kinds of advanced coolants that U.S. manufacturers are prepared to make. But the treaty also prevents participating countries from buying equipment from non-participating countries — which means U.S. manufacturers would be left out if the Senate doesn't approve it.

And if the Kigali amendment doesn't get come into force, U.S. manufacturers warn they will face competition from a flood of Chinese supplies of the old technology.

"Manufacturing plants in China capable of producing 30 million to 40 million units a year in that old technology," said Stephen Yurek, CEO of the Air-Conditioning Refrigeration, and Heating Institute, a trade group that represents 70 percent of the world's production of commercial heating, refrigeration, and air-conditioning equipment. U.S. production capacity is about 8 million units, the group says.

The Montreal Protocol has been amended four times, and some changes took years to clear the Senate. But AHRI hopes the deal will be ratified by 2019. The group wrote to Vice President Mike Pence shortly after the election, articulating a series of policy goals, including strong support for the agreement. The letter highlights the consequences of not joining.

"We want it to be clear that we support it, but they don't need to deal with it right way," Yurek said. "Wait until the end of this year or next year.

"We're just hoping it doesn't show up on a twitter feed at 3:30 in the morning," he added.

Yurek wants to allow Trump to get his administration in place so the group knows whom to talk to and what the best approach will be. "If we have to deal with it now or in the next six months, we're not going to have the ability to figure out what that message is," he said.

But the group will definitely not push an environmental message, and AHRI Vice President Francis Dietz said the group had "tried to decouple it from climate."

"We don't want this lumped in with climate because they did repeatedly say they want to scrap Paris, but they have not said that about this," he said.

So far, green groups are steering clear of the push to approve the treaty amendment.

Durwood Zaelke, president of the Institute for Governance & Sustainable Development, a group that was involved in the negotiations in Kigali, said ratifying the HFC amendment was a "no-brainer," but that the group was taking a backseat.

"This is a process that is clearly being led by industry and will continue to be lead by industry," he said.

To view online click here.

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Biodiesel industry baffled by EPA move into imports dispute Back

By Eric Wolff | 07/06/2017 06:03 PM EDT

Biodiesel producers are pressing EPA to rethink proposed cuts in the volume mandates for advanced biofuels and a decision to keep biodiesel levels in the U.S. market flat — moves they say will only hurt the domestic industry without reducing the imports EPA is targeting.

The U.S. biodiesel makers say EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt's effort to stem the rising flow of imports from Argentina, Brazil and Indonesia can be better handled through trade rules, not the Renewable Fuel Standard that governs biofuel volumes. The industry has lodged a case with the Commerce Department against subsidized biodiesel imports from Argentina and Indonesia that it expects to win some time next year.

"All of that should be dealt with separately, and not within the RFS," said Anne Steckel, vice president for federal affairs for the National Biodiesel Board. "By limiting the growth in the advanced program, they're only hurting the domestic industry. They can't block [imports] through this program. The imports will still come in ... because they're cheaper. That only makes my members ability to grow even smaller."

EPA argues that imported biofuels undermine the RFS goal of promoting energy independence, but it has few policy tools to address the issue. That prompted the agency to take a blunt force approach, proposing cuts for advanced biofuels to discourage imports from Brazil, Argentina and Indonesia, and to seek comments on whether it should reduce volumes for advanced biodiesel in 2019.

Steckel said her members likely brought up the import complaints in meetings with EPA and White House officials this year about the RFS program. Biodiesel imports from Argentina and Indonesia have been ramping up over the last few years, with Argentina delivering 331 million gallons last year, according to the Energy Information Administration, about 17 percent of the volume required under the 2016 RFS.

Sens. Maria Cantwell (D-Wash.) and Chuck Grassley (R-Iowa) have co-sponsored legislation to create a biodiesel producers tax credit, which would not be available to imports, and would

replace an expired blenders credit available to importers.

NBB's trade complaint accusing Argentina and Indonesia of dumping government-subsidized fuel into the U.S. market won a 5-0 vote from the International Trade Commission in May, sending the issue to the Commerce Department for an investigation. Commerce could impose duties to offset those subsidies if it determines the foreign producers are violating trade rules.

But the import issue is outside the scope of EPA's power under the RFS, according to the biodiesel industry.

"It's not really their purview," said Gene Gebolys, CEO of biodiesel producer World Energy. "It's a strange logic — what makes one conclude that by holding volumes down, it will reduce imports? That makes a logic assumption that says the imports are the last in the door, and that's not the case."

President Donald Trump's call for American energy dominance and calls to renegotiate global trading regimes in the United States' favor may have influenced Pruitt's move. Sources told POLITICO that Pruitt delayed releasing the RFS volume proposal for weeks while he sought a method to pare imports. Instead of increasing cellulosic biofuels by 100 million gallons as sources said the agency would do in June, he instead cut the cellulosic fuel mandate by 73 million gallons and the overall advanced fuels pool by 40 million gallons.

EPA declined to comment on Pruitt's decision.

But in the proposed rule, EPA writes that imported biofuel specifically contravenes the goals of Congress in creating the program. "Due to their origin outside the United States, imported renewable fuels may not have the same impact on energy independence as those produced domestically," the agency said.

Biodiesel mandates are set a year earlier than other segments, such as the conventional biofuel requirements, and the 100 million gallon increase in 2018 to 2.1 billion gallons was finalized by the Obama administration last year.

EPA proposed leaving the 2019 volumes unchanged, arguing that because advanced biodiesel could be used to fill other requirements in the program, the total amount of biodiesel produced would not be affected. The industry had asked for an increase to 2.75 billion gallons, a figure Steckel says producers could easily meet. EIA shows biodiesel plants operated at 68 percent of their capacity in 2016.

And EPA indicated it was considering a downward revision in the final rule due in November as part of its effort to curb imports.

"In light of these considerations, EPA requests comment on whether or not to reduce the biomass-based diesel required volume below the level specified in this proposed rule for 2019," it says in the proposal. "And to what degree these considerations could ... reduce the required volume of advanced biofuel ... below the level proposed for 2018."

World Energy's Gebolys said he's hopeful EPA won't pursue any cuts.

"What's typically happened in the past is they leave themselves maximum flexibility in the proposal," Gebolys said. "I think that's what happened here, they wanted to avoid painting themselves into a corner."

To view online click here.

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EPA suspends science committee's work, mulls replacing most members Back

By Annie Snider and Eric Wolff | 06/20/2017 03:27 PM EDT

EPA is suspending meetings of a key scientific advisory committee for the rest of this year while the agency considers whether to replace most of its members.

The agency told members of the Board of Scientific Counselors that they would have to reapply for their seat if their first term expires this August or next March, rather than being automatically reappointed for a second three-year term as has traditionally been the case. Acting Administrator for the Office of Research and Development Robert Kavlock's email to BOSC members on Monday announcing the change follows a previous decision not to automatically re-up members whose term ended in April of this year.

"It completely wipes out BOSC," committee Chair Deborah Swackhamer told POLITICO. She pointed out that the committee was about to begin a major review of the agency's research programs as it plans for the next five years' worth of work.

The new round of notices means only 11 of 49 subcommittee members will remain after August, Swackhamer said. The board's executive committee, which typically has around 20 members, will be down to just three, she said. EPA said they will be allowed to submit new applications.

"At the very least, this slows down BOSC's activity by nearly a year," Swackhamer said. "It also bodes poorly for other committees at EPA — one-third of the flagship Science Advisory Board is due to complete their first term in September."

The agency has previously said that Administrator Scott Pruitt wants to hear more input from those who understand how regulations affect the economy.

"EPA is grateful for the service of all BOSC members, past and present, and has encouraged those with expiring terms to reapply," EPA spokeswoman Amy Graham said Tuesday. "We are taking an inclusive approach to filling future BOSC appointments and welcome all applicants from all relevant scientific and technical fields."

Kavlock's email made clear that anyone interested in applying for a second term had to submit their nomination by a June 30 deadline laid out in the Federal Register.

"Because of the need to reconstitute the BOSC, we are canceling all subcommittee meetings initially planned for late summer and fall," Kavlock wrote. He said EPA's goal was for the committee and subcommittees to "resume their work in 2018."

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To: Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
From: POLITICO Pro Energy Whiteboard
Sent: Thur 5/25/2017 5:01:51 PM
Subject: EPA moves up deadline for new science advisers

By Annie Snider

05/25/2017 12:56 PM EDT

EPA is accelerating its nomination process for new scientific advisers, moving up the deadline for applicants to submit their materials by three weeks.

In a Federal Register notice to be published next week, the agency will move the deadline for nominations to the Board of Scientific Counselors up to June 30. New nominations for the board, which lost half its members after EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt declined to renominate nine members, were originally due July 21, according to a notice published today.

The board's chairwoman, Deborah Swackhamer, this week expressed concern about its ability to function with so few members. Not only did it lose nine members when Pruitt elected not to renominate members whose first term had expired, as is customary, but it also lost four members whose second terms had expired.

"I'm obviously concerned. My committee is no longer populated. I'm anxious that it gets repopulated as quickly as possible," Swackhamer told a subpanel of the House Science Committee earlier this week.

WHAT'S NEXT: Nominations for new board members will be accepted by EPA through June 30. A subcommittee of the board is scheduled to meet in August, Swackhamer said.

To view online:
https://www.politicopro.com/energy/whiteboard/2017/05/epa-moves-up-deadline-for-new-science-advisers-088312

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To: Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
From: POLITICO Pro Energy Whiteboard
Sent: Tue 7/25/2017 4:55:36 PM
Subject: Climate comments from DOE science nominee reflects other Trump officials

By Darius Dixon

07/25/2017 12:51 PM EDT

Paul Dabbar, who has been nominated to be the Energy Department's undersecretary for science, agrees that the planet's climate is changing but is unsure about how much is attributable to human activity, according to his written responses to questions from members of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee.

Dabbar expressed concern about the economy and echoed other Trump administration officials when senators asked him about global warming.

"I believe the climate is changing, and I concur with others who have stated that we must have some impact," he wrote, responding to Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.). "I agree with [Energy] Secretary [Rick] Perry that the question is how we address it in a thoughtful way that further supports economic growth, improves affordability of energy, and American jobs."

When Sanders, in writing, asked what actions should be taken to mitigate climate change, Dabbar said the economy could right the problem.

"I believe a strong, vibrant economy is the best way to mitigate any impacts from climate change," he stated. "If confirmed, I will work to implement policies at DOE that will empower innovative approaches and technologies to mitigate climate change."

WHAT'S NEXT: The Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee is slated to vote on six DOE and Interior Department nominees on Thursday.

To view online:
https://www.politicopro.com/energy/whiteboard/2017/07/climate-comments-from-doe-science-nominee-reflects-other-trump-officials-091018

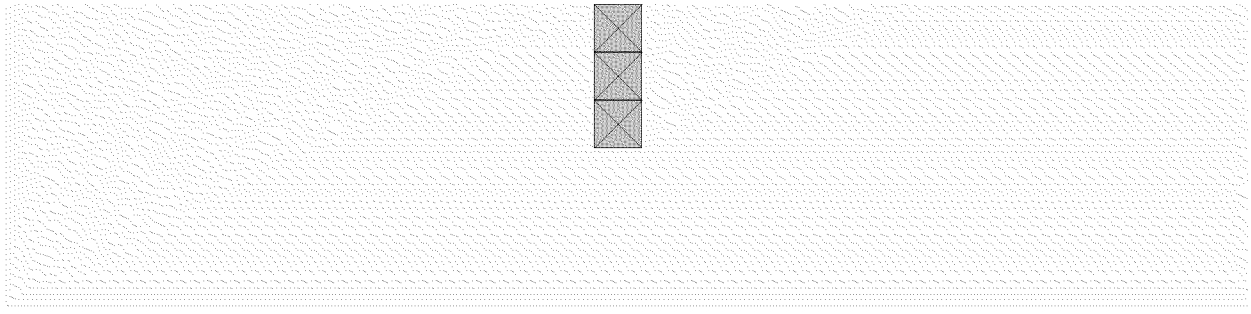
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Sent: Fri 9/8/2017 12:25:55 PM
Subject: ISIS Threats Hurricane Shelters, 9/11 Responder Funds, Epic Equifax Breach, Child Rape on 3 Continents





To: Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
From: InsideEPA.com
Sent: Tue 6/13/2017 11:15:02 AM
Subject: The Morning Headlines from InsideEPA.com -- June 13, 2017

TRUMP'S EPA: Agency at a crossroads -- Complete coverage

June 13, 2017

Latest News

Delaying Policy, EPA Signals Significant Changes To Obama RMP Rule

EPA is suggesting it plans to make significant changes to an Obama-era facility safety rule, arguing in its announcement delaying the regulation for an additional 20 months that the rule is based on "policy preferences" that could vary between administrations, and that the agency intends to raise concerns with the rule not cited in industry petitions.

Former Officials See EPA Budget Plan Driving Layoffs Among Young Staff

A group of former EPA officials is warning that implementing the Trump administration's proposed cuts to EPA's budget would decimate the agency for years, due to layoffs that would likely impact young staff that are crucial to the agency's future.

Facing Regulatory Uncertainty, ECOS Seeks To Redefine State-Federal Roles

Facing significant uncertainty about EPA's future budgets and its regulatory role, state environmental leaders are launching a new campaign to redefine state and federal roles overseeing pollution control requirements while setting principles for how to do so.

Utility Group Suggests CPP Replacement Plan As EPA Advances Rollback

Even before EPA decides whether or how to replace the Obama-era Clean Power Plan (CPP), a coalition of 13 electric utilities that serve 25 states is pitching a replacement to the power plant greenhouse gas rule, with an attorney representing the group describing the plan as a more flexible and effective alternative than the rule EPA is poised to repeal.

DOJ Vows 'Course Corrections' To Implement Trump's Deregulatory Agenda

The Justice Department's top environmental official says the Environment and Natural Resources Division (ENRD) will continue implementing its traditional enforcement and other responsibilities but Jeffrey Wood, ENRD's acting head, says

the division will make “course corrections” to implement President Donald Trump's deregulatory agenda.

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To: Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
From: Bloomberg BNA
Sent: Fri 6/16/2017 8:01:27 PM
Subject: June 16 -- Daily Environment Report - Afternoon Briefing

Daily Environment Report

Afternoon Briefing - Your Preview of Today's News

The following news provides a snapshot of what Bloomberg BNA is working on today. Read the full version of all the stories in the final issue, published each night. The Bloomberg BNA Daily Environment Report is brought to you by EPA Libraries. Please note, these materials may be copyrighted and should not be forwarded outside of the U.S. EPA. If you have any questions or no longer wish to receive these messages, please contact Josue Rivera-Olds at rivera-olds.josue@epa.gov, 202-566-1558.

Canada Says it Will Withhold Funds if Provinces Don't Join Climate Change Plan

Posted June 16, 2017, 02:32 P.M. ET

By Jeremy Hainsworth

Canada gave holdout provinces Saskatchewan and Manitoba until year's end to join the country's climate change framework or forfeit federal funds that would go toward climate change mitigation efforts.

Minister of Environment and Climate Change Catherine McKenna said most of the C$2 billion ($1.5 billion) in funding for greenhouse gas emissions reduction and energy efficiency projects to be spent over five years would go to provinces and territories that have adopted the Pan-Canadian Framework on Clean Growth and Climate Change for work to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Provinces that have joined the framework would each get C$30 million ($22.7 million) to start, plus additional funds based on population.

Saskatchewan and Manitoba, which oppose Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's new carbon tax, are the only provinces yet to sign the agreement. They would be ineligible any of the $1.4 billion ($1.06 billion) being earmarked for provincial programs to cut greenhouse gas emissions, McKenna said June 15.

Saskatchewan Premier Brad Wall labeled the plan "extortion," and said Saskatchewan has invested more per capita than any other province to address climate change through projects such as carbon capture and storage.

"If this fund, which Saskatchewan taxpayers have helped create, is really about reducing carbon emissions, how does withholding those funds for green initiatives in Saskatchewan help that objective?" Wall wrote in a Facebook post.

Beginning in 2018, the federal government will mandate a minimum carbon price of C$10 ($7.6) per metric ton. The tax will increase by C$10 annually to reach C$50 ($37.8) a metric ton by 2022.

While provinces are invited to develop their own plans that meet Canada's minimum standards, Trudeau has said the federal government would tax fossil fuels and cap industry emissions in any province that doesn't bring in its own carbon price.

Canada Seeks Expedited Power to Protect Ocean Zones

Posted June 16, 2017, 02:26 P.M. ET

By Peter Menyasz

Canada wants the authority to quickly declare sensitive marine environments temporarily off-limits to oil and gas production without going through the process of obtaining permanent protection status, which can take upwards of a decade.

Legislation introduced June 15 would give the government the ability to declare an area protected on a temporary basis for up to five years, immediately blocking all oil and gas activity in a proposed protected area, and canceling all oil and gas rights in those areas, with compensation provided to affected companies.

"These amendments to the Oceans Act will help Canada provide protection to sensitive marine areas that need it the most," Fisheries and Oceans Minister Dominic LeBlanc said in a statement. "As Canada continues to lead the way towards the sustainable management of our oceans, we will continue to base our decisions on sound science."

Chelsie Klassen, spokeswoman for the Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers, said the oil and gas industry opposes granting the government new power to unilaterally extinguish development rights.

Bill C-55, introduced in the House of Commons, would amend the Canada Petroleum Resources Act to empower the federal government to prohibit oil and gas activities in interim protected areas while a permanent marine protected area regulation is being developed.

To become law it must be passed by the House of Commons and the Senate, including review by parliamentary committees in both chambers, and then receive the rubber stamp of royal assent. Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's strong majority in the House of Commons guarantees that the bill will be passed. However, the Canadian Parliament is scheduled to recess for the summer after June 23 and resume Sept. 18, so the bill won't be passed until the fall.

The current regulatory process of officially designating an area a permanently protected ocean zone can take up to a decade in Canada, which the government said does not give it the flexibility it needs to protect natural resources.

Karen Wristen, executive director of the Vancouver-based Living Oceans environmental group, said: "We're hopeful we will see the government use the measures sooner rather than later."

Merkel Cabinet Opens German Clean Power Auctions to EU Neighbors

Posted June 16, 2017, 02:23 P.M. ET

By Brian Parkin and Andrew Reierson

Chancellor Angela Merkel's Cabinet approved a plan to allow companies in nations neighboring Germany to compete in clean power auctions.

Developers in the 28 European Union countries will be able to bid for as much as 300 megawatts of capacity, which is equal to about 5 percent of Germany's current annual auction volume, the Economy and Energy Ministry said. An ordinance ushering in the move will be effective shortly, and the ministry plans to expand the volume.

The step is aimed at integrating Germany's clean power expansion in the EU as the bloc strives to create a single market for electricity. Spreading generation beyond Germany's border will also help ease fluctuations in its wind and solar power generation, the ministry said.

Germany kicked off cross-border auctions last year in a test with Denmark, offering 50 megawatts of capacity to its neighbor. Denmark reciprocated offering 20 megawatts.

Merkel's cabinet set three conditions for implementing the ordinance. EU neighbor states must reciprocate by offering clean power capacity. They must anchor the pledge in an international agreement, and power that's generated must be able to be "physically imported" into Germany, the ministry said.

The cross-border auctions will be open to all types of green power. Regional advantages for specific types of power generation -- such as hydro power -- will help iron out the fluctuations in Germany's wind and solar power.

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US Navy in Hot Water for Washing Retired Aircraft Carrier

Posted June 16, 2017, 01:30 P.M. ET

By Amena H. Saiyid

The cleanup of a decommissioned aircraft carrier at a base in Puget Sound's Sinclair Inlet has landed the U.S. Navy in court for an alleged Clean Water Act violation.

Puget Soundkeeper Alliance is suing the Navy for the alleged discharge of up to 730 cubic yards of debris into the water, which resulted from the use of scrapers and high pressure jets to clean the hull of the decommissioned USS Independence. The retired aircraft carrier was cleaned in January at the Naval Base Kitsap, which is located within the Puget Sound Naval Shipyard Complex, a designated Superfund site.

The lawsuit alleged the Navy failed to obtain a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit, which is required under federal law to cover the discharge of pollutants into federally protected waters. Puget Soundkeeper said the debris from the cleanup project contained paint chips, suspended solids, and particulates of copper, zinc, and other metals that are classified as pollutants under the Clean Water Act.

Some portion of this debris remains on the bottom sediment in the waters near where the ship was cleaned, Puget Soundkeeper claimed.

The alliance filed the lawsuit June 14 on behalf of the Suquamish Tribe and the Washington Environmental Council. The lawsuit was filed in the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Washington.

Week Ahead: It's Perry's Turn in the Budget-Defense Barrel

Posted June 16, 2017, 01:28 P.M. ET

By Chuck McCutcheon

Energy Secretary Rick Perry is expected to face grilling from Congress similar to what EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt received about proposed steep cuts to his agency's fiscal 2018 budget—one of numerous energy and environment events during the week of June 19.

Perry is scheduled to testify Tuesday before the House Appropriations' Energy and Water Development Subcommittee. The ex-Texas governor then will face the Senate's counterpart spending panel on Wednesday and the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee on Thursday. His appearances come after Republican appropriators, listening to Pruitt testify, dismissed the Trump administration's proposals for EPA as out of hand.

Under President Donald Trump's proposal, the Energy Department would sustain an overall 5.4 percent cut, or $1.7 billion—minor compared to most other Cabinet agencies—from the estimated funding levels Congress provided in fiscal 2017. The agency's clean energy programs would bear the brunt of the cuts, with new funds funneled into the arm of the agency dealing with developing and safeguarding nuclear weapons.

Energy efficiency and renewable energy program funding would plummet by around 70 percent. Subprograms dealing with weatherization of homes and state energy are proposed for elimination "to reduce federal intervention in state-level energy policy and implementation," according to the department.

Even fossil energy research, which supports research into coal, oil and other energy types that Trump has emphasized, is proposed to get a 55 percent cut. And Energy's Office of Nuclear Energy, which advances nuclear power as resource and conducts nuclear-related research and development, would see a nearly 30 percent cut.

Perry said last month that the budget proposal "delivers on the promise to reprioritize spending to carry out DOE's core functions efficiently and effectively while also being fiscally responsible and respectful to the American taxpayer." But his predecessor Ernest Moniz, who served under President Barack Obama—and who is speaking at the National Press Club on Wednesday about the need for more energy research—said the proposed reductions "would put us behind China and Europe" in developing clean-energy markets.

Two senators already have come out publicly against cutting Energy Department research: Lamar Alexander (R-Tenn.), who chairs Appropriations' Energy and Water Subcommittee, and Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska), who chairs Energy and Natural Resources. They joined several colleagues in a May letter asserting: "Federally funded research is imperative to ensuring we meet our energy, science, and national security needs for generations to come."

Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke also is continuing to head to Capitol Hill to discuss his agency's proposed budget. The Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee also will listen to Zinke on Tuesday, followed by the House Natural Resources Committee on Thursday. Like Pruitt, Zinke also

has faced bipartisan skepticism on called-for cuts at Interior, including elimination of a pilot program on abandoned mine lands, the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, and an earthquake early warning program, as well as a deep cut in money for the Land and Water Conservation Fund. Alan Kovski will cover.

Pruitt, Zinke and numerous other public- and private-sector officials, including the Edison Electric Institute's Tom Kuhn and NuScale Power's John Hopkins, are scheduled to take part on Tuesday at a U.S. Chamber of Commerce's Institute for 21st Century Energy breakfast on how energy innovation can drive future economic growth. David Schultz will cover.

In Other News

Water infrastructure: The Senate Environment and Public Works Committee's Subcommittee on Fisheries, Water, and Wildlife will hold a Tuesday hearing, "Innovative Financing and Funding: Addressing America's Crumbling Water Infrastructure." Amena H. Saiyid will cover.

Environmental technologies: The House Science, Space and Technology Committee's Environment Subcommittee will hold a Wednesday hearing on advances in environmental technologies. Among the companies testifying is Saildrone Inc., which collects and delivers live ocean data on weather forecasting and climate, among other uses, through a fleet of autonomous sailing drones.

Climate roundtable: Rep. Eddie Bernice Johnson (D-Texas), the Science Committee's ranking member, will hold a Tuesday roundtable on climate change. Witnesses include scientists from Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory and Woods Hole Research Center.

Amended TSCA: The week of June 19 marks the one-year anniversary of Congress's overhaul of the Toxic Substances Control Act. The statute requires the agency to release by Monday its strategies for assessing the risks of 10 chemicals and groups of chemicals. The EPA also is required to issue by June 22 three final rules, which will describe the agency's approach to identify chemicals in commerce, determine which of them are priorities for risk assessment and carry out those risk evaluations. Many people have bet some or all deadlines may slip, but the agency has been working to meet them. Pat Rizzuto and Sam Pearson will cover.

WOTUS deadline: Monday is the deadline for states to submit comments on how they would like to see the EPA and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers rewrite the waters of the U.S. rule following the direction provided by Trump. In his executive order, Trump ordered that the rewrite consider the late Justice Antonin Scalia's opinion in a 2006 U.S. Supreme Court case in which Scalia asserted Clean Water Act jurisdiction on the basis of relatively flowing water. Reporting by Saiyid.

EU Designates Bisphenol A an Endocrine Disruptor

Posted June 16, 2017, 01:14 P.M. ET

By Stephen Gardner

The widely used chemical bisphenol A will be categorized as an endocrine disruptor for the purposes of the European Union's REACH regulation, the European Chemicals Agency said June 16.

Bisphenol A is already considered under REACH to be a "substance of very high concern" (SVHC) because it is toxic to reproduction. But a regulatory committee of representatives from the EU's 28 countries unanimously agreed at a June 12-16 meeting that it should also be designated an

endocrine disruptor, or a substance that could damage the hormone system, the chemicals agency said.

The additional designation has no immediate impact but could come into play if a decision is made to ban bisphenol A from use in the EU. Under REACH (Regulation No. 1907/2006 on the registration, evaluation and authorization of chemicals), SVHCs can be prioritized for phaseout, meaning their use would be prohibited in the EU unless companies obtain usage-specific authorizations.

To obtain an authorization, applicants must prove banned substances can be used safely and cannot be replaced by safer alternatives. Proving the safe use of an endocrine disruptor would be difficult because it is assumed there is no safe exposure level, unless the applicant for an authorization can prove such a level exists.

Natacha Cingotti, a policy officer with advocacy group the Health and Environment Alliance, said in a statement June 16 that the designation of bisphenol A as an endocrine disruptor was "long overdue and of crucial importance so that measures to reduce people's exposure to the substance can be introduced in the future."

SVHC Updates

Bisphenol A is manufactured in or imported into the EU in annual volumes of up to 10 million metric tons, according to European Chemicals Agency data. Most of that volume is used in the manufacture of polycarbonate plastic, which leaves only traces of bisphenol A in the finished product and would not be affected by a potential future phaseout decision on the substance.

Other uses of bisphenol A, such as in brake fluids, tires and adhesives and in the manufacture of polyvinyl chloride (PVC), could be affected if a decision is taken to phase out the substance. In such an eventuality, companies would require authorizations to continue using the substance in these applications.

The European Chemicals Agency said it would formalize the additional designation of bisphenol A by the end of June.

The agency added that the regulatory committee of EU national representatives had also agreed to identify the substance perfluorohexane-1-sulphonic acid and its salts as an SVHC because of its persistence in the environment and because it bioaccumulates in organisms.

The addition of the substance brings the number of SVHCs under REACH to 174. So far, decisions on phaseout have been taken for 43 of those substances.

Pruitt Schedule Peppered With Energy Company Meetings

Posted June 16, 2017, 01:07 P.M. ET

By Brian Dabbs

EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt met frequently with energy companies during his first six weeks in office, a timespan that didn't feature a single meeting with an environmental advocacy group, his newly released schedule shows.

The former Oklahoma attorney general sat down with American Petroleum Institute executive committee, Chevron Corp., Duke Energy, BP America Inc., and the Edison Electric Institute between mid-February and the end of March, according to records obtained by Bloomberg BNA from a Freedom of Information Act request.

A range of coal and other energy companies filled Pruitt's campaign coffers during his past two decades in Oklahoma politics. Pruitt also in recent years led the Republican Attorneys General Association, which has close financial ties to energy companies.

He attended a RAGA dinner nine days after President Donald Trump swore him into office. Pruitt met with the Nature Conservancy and the Audubon Society, both environmental groups, in late April.

EU Sets Phaseout Dates For 12 Hazardous Chemicals

Posted June 16, 2017, 12:12 P.M. ET

By Stephen Gardner

A European Commission decision to prohibit the use of 12 hazardous substances in the European Union ending a three-year moratorium on phaseout decisions is a welcome development, the European Chemicals Agency told Bloomberg BNA June 16.

The commission, the EU's executive arm, published the list of 12 substances in a regulation that amends Annex XIV of the EU's REACH law (Regulation No. 1907/2006 on the registration, evaluation and authorization of chemicals). The regulation brings the number of substances in the annex to 43.

Use of the substances will be phased out in the EU on various dates between July 4, 2020, and Jan. 4, 2021. Companies that want to continue using the substances thereafter must apply for specific authorizations, which can be granted if they can prove no alternatives exist and risks can be controlled.

The chemicals agency said in an emailed statement to Bloomberg BNA it was "delighted that this key process of the REACH regulation is moving again," following the moratorium. The commission suspended new additions to Annex XIV in 2014 amid concerns the process of applying for authorizations was too burdensome for companies.

In addition to the 43 substances now listed in REACH Annex XIV, the chemicals agency has submitted recommendations to the commission to list another 24 hazardous substances. The agency said, "We trust that the commission will continue to update the list regularly" based on these recommendations.

Range Of Substances

The 12 substances affected by the new listing decision include eight with a sunset date of July 4, 2020: 1-bromopropane (n-propyl bromide); 1,2-benzenedicarboxylic acid di-C6-8-branched alkyl esters C7-rich; 1,2-benzenedicarboxylic acid, di-C7-11-branched and linear alkyl esters; 1,2-benzenedicarboxylic acid, dipentylester, branched and linear; bis(2-methoxyethyl) phthalate; diisopentylphthalate; dipentylphthalate; and n-pentyl-isopentylphthalate.

A sunset date of Oct. 4, 2020, will apply to anthracene oil and coal-tar pitch, high temperature. For

the final two substances—4-(1,1,3,3-tetramethylbutyl)phenol, ethoxylated and 4-nonylphenol, branched and linear, ethoxylated—the sunset date will be Jan. 4, 2021.

The substances have a variety of uses, including in cleaning products, cosmetics, consumer electronics, detergents, dyes and paints. Decisions to phase them out have been taken on the basis that they are toxic for reproduction, carcinogenic or damaging to the hormone system.

The regulation listing the substances in REACH Annex XIV was published in the June 14 edition of the EU Official Journal.

Moratorium Ends

Frida Hok, a policy adviser with ChemSec, a Stockholm-based group that campaigns for the phaseout of toxic chemicals, told Bloomberg BNA June 16 that with the ending of the moratorium on new Annex XIV listings, the commission has no reason not to take further phaseout decisions for hazardous substances.

"We've been waiting for this for a long time. We definitely hope they will update the list on a regular basis," Hok said.

The moratorium on new Annex XIV was primarily introduced because it was felt the process of applying for authorizations to continue to use hazardous substances in the EU was too costly and complex, especially for substances that are produced and used in low volumes, or that are needed for spare parts for machinery that is still in use but no longer manufactured.

The commission said in October 2014 it would put in place a simplified procedure for low volume substances, but this has not appeared. The commission "has been struggling" with the procedure because of difficulties in defining thresholds below which a simplified procedure would apply, Hok said.

Restriction Finalized

Separately, the commission published a regulation June 14 adding perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and related substances to Annex XVII of REACH, which contains restrictions on the uses of substances.

The restriction would outlaw the manufacture and sale of PFOA in the EU, and would allow only limited continued uses in some applications, such as in foam used in fire-fighting and in some medical devices. The restriction will apply in most cases from July 4, 2020, with longer deadlines in some specialized cases.

PFOA is persistent, bioaccumulative and toxic. In practice it has already largely been phased out from use in the EU.

Green Bond Growth Unruffled by U.S. Paris Exit, EIB Says

Posted June 16, 2017, 12:02 P.M. ET

By Lyubov Pronina

Green bond sales by borrowers including Apple Inc. show the U.S. pullout from the Paris climate

accord has not slowed a market that almost doubled last year, the European Investment Bank's capital markets chief said.

If President Donald Trump's decision to take the U.S. out of the Paris climate accord was a setback for the international pact to curb greenhouse gases, issuers are brushing it off, according to Eila Kreivi, the bank's head of capital markets.

"Two years ago, it would have been a catastrophe but now the market has a life of its own," she said in an interview on the sidelines of an International Capital Market Association conference on green bonds in Paris on June 14. "We have seen so many American market participants who have said, we don't care. Indeed, Apple's green bond confirmed that."

Apple, which wants to run 100 percent of its operations on renewable energy, issued $1 billion of the securities on June 13, adding to a $1.5 billion sale in 2016. This year's most active seller of the securities is the French government, which sold an inaugural 7 billion euros ($7.8 billion) in January to fund efforts to meet European Union targets on emissions cuts.

The EIB, which is the second largest global issuer of the securities in 2017 after France, according to Bloomberg league tables, will continue to provide as much as 4 billion euros per year in financing for eligible projects, Kreivi said.

"We expect to see a fairly similar number this year in lending and green bond issuance," she said.

Global sales of green bonds almost doubled last year to $95.65 billion, according to Bloomberg New Energy Finance, which expects volumes to reach $123 billion in 2017. The market's momentum has continued into this week with a 1 billion euro offering of notes across two maturities by Dutch power company TenneT Holding and China Three Gorges Corp's 650 million euro sale of seven-year paper.

The EIB is working with China to produce a White Paper by the year-end to map out a framework for green bonds principles, Kreivi said.

—With assistance from Brian Parkin.

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EU Publishes Nanomaterials Resources

Posted June 16, 2017, 11:29 A.M. ET

By Stephen Gardner

The European Union has published two new resources providing an overview of nanomaterials on the EU market and cataloging the use of nanomaterials in cosmetics sold in the bloc.

The EU Observatory for Nanomaterials, managed by the European Chemicals Agency, collects information on the uses of nanomaterials (particles so small they can be seen only with a microscope), how they are characterized, how their risks are assessed and how they are regulated in the EU. The observatory went live June 14.

Nanomaterials in the EU are regulated through a patchwork of laws at EU and member-country

level. For example, there is no blanket EU-wide reporting obligation for nanomaterials in products, but Belgium, Denmark and France have national obligations, and Sweden is considering a national registry.

Geert Dancet, executive director of the European Chemicals Agency, said the nanomaterials observatory was aimed at consumers and workers as well as regulators, and was intended as a reliable source of "objective and easily understandable information."

Separately, the European Commission, the EU's executive arm, published June 15 a catalog of nanomaterials used in lipsticks, shampoos, sun creams and other cosmetics. The catalog lists the nanomaterials, the categories of cosmetic products in which they are used, and routes by which the nanomaterials could potentially enter the human body.

Although the EU has no overall nanomaterial reporting obligation, the EU Cosmetics Regulation ((EC) No 1223/2009) requires cosmetics companies to notify basic information about their use of nanomaterials. The commission said it "takes no responsibility for the content and the scientific qualification of the notifications."

The nanomaterials in cosmetics catalog includes 43 substances used as colorants, preservatives and UV-filters. The commission said the catalog was "a work in progress subject to modifications," which would be updated regularly.

Canadian Oil-Sands Production Expected to Grow Rapidly

Posted June 16, 2017, 11:21 A.M. ET

By Kevin Orland

Canada's oil-sands will increase production rapidly in the next three years, ranking only behind U.S. shale as the biggest contributor to global supply growth.

The oil sands will boost output by almost half a million barrels a day over this year and the next, with a smaller increase in 2019, IHS Markit said June 15. Production from the resource, which churned out about 2.6 million barrels a day last year, may be 1 million barrels per day higher by 2026, the researcher said.

The deposits of sand, water, clay and hydrocarbons in northern Alberta saw a frenzy of dealmaking activity earlier this year as Canadian producers bought out international partners in a bet that they can make the capital-intensive operations more efficient and profitable. Indeed, much of the production growth from the oil sands will come from expansion of existing facilities, which offer lower costs and risks, as well as quicker returns, IHS said. The IHS projections echo a study released by the Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers June 14, which forecast oil-sands production would increase by 1.3 million barrels a day by 2030. That study also indicated that the nation's crude output will exceed existing pipeline capacity, limiting producers' access to markets.

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EPA Accepts New Air Monitoring Technology for State, City Use

Posted June 16, 2017, 10:44 A.M. ET

By Rachel Leven

States and cities have two more EPA-sanctioned tools available to measure carbon monoxide and nitrogen dioxide concentrations in the atmosphere.

The Environmental Protection Agency approved the use of a Kentek Environmental Technology's non-dispersive infrared analyzer to measure carbon monoxide concentrations, according to a notice scheduled for publication June 19. The agency also approved an automated method analyzer made by Ecotech Pty. Ltd. to measure nitrogen dioxide concentrations.

These new tools offer states and municipalities more options for measuring air pollutants to determine compliance with EPA clean air standards.

Nitrogen dioxide gets into the air when fuel is burned at power plants and other industrial facilities, as well as by cars and trucks. Exposure to nitrogen dioxide presents risks to people's respiratory systems, including further irritation of asthma. Carbon monoxide is a toxic gas that is emitted by a variety of sources, including leaking chimneys and generators. The health harms posed by carbon monoxide range from fatigue to death at high concentrations.

Slashing EPA Budget May Send Wrong Staff to Toxics Office

Posted June 16, 2017, 6:31 A.M. ET

By Steve Gibb

Former EPA chemicals officials warned that if the agency's budget is significantly cut, employees with the wrong training may be transferred to implement a recently amended chemicals law.

The Trump administration forwarded an Environmental Protection Agency budget to Congress for fiscal 2018 that slashes its budget by one-third, or by about $2.6 billion compared to 2017 levels. But the chemicals program is slated for a substantial budget increase to address new risk review responsibilities under the Toxics Substances Control Act updated last June.

Former officials said that cuts of this magnitude would lead to significant personnel transfers with the wrong skills for chemical oversight.

For example, if the cuts outpace EPA's ability to meet budget targets through staff attrition or voluntary retirements, enforcement officers or air program engineers may be shifted to the Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention (OCSPP) that needs toxicologists, chemists and exposure scientists.

Challenging New Mandates

Despite cuts for most EPA programs, the proposed White House fiscal year 2018 budget would raise funding for the EPA's chemical risk review and reduction program to $65 million—a $6.59 million increase over fiscal 2017 levels.

OCSPP is one of the few EPA programs expected to receive a budget increase from Congress because of challenging new mandates to expand oversight of chemicals produced or imported into the U.S under the Lautenberg Chemical Safety Act (LCSA).

"If EPA budget cuts are bigger than can be absorbed through attrition, then staff from other offices will be transferred to the toxics office," Jim Jones, former chief of the EPA chemicals and pesticide programs, told Bloomberg BNA. "Solid, hard-working staff will join OSCPP but some won't have the skill mix the program needs to continue to implement the LCSA."

Former EPA pesticide and union official Steve Hopkins agreed. "The proposed cuts will further diminish important oversight, review and registration functions and result in people performing work outside their experience skill set," he told Bloomberg BNA.

But other union officials say transfers can work out well and are preferable to general workforce cuts.

Joe Edgell with the National Treasury Employees Union—which also covers some EPA employees—told Bloomberg BNA, "We would encourage moving people around" rather than having a general reduction-in-force and then hiring new staff for the chemicals program. "Obviously we want to make sure people are qualified to do the work, but people can learn new things."

EPA downplayed the potential shift of unskilled personnel, saying it's speculative.

"These are hypothetical scenarios. The fact is that EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt supports a budget that provides funding to protect our air, water, and land while reducing wasteful spending in our government," according to EPA spokesman Jahan Wilcox.

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Daily Environment Report for EPA

To: Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
From: POLITICO Pro Energy Whiteboard
Sent: Mon 7/3/2017 6:48:58 PM
Subject: BLM seeking comment on improving land-use planning process

By Esther Whieldon

07/03/2017 02:44 PM EDT

BLM is asking for comments on ways to improve its land-use planning and environmental review processes while also addressing local concerns.

The agency will be accepting comments through July 24 in an online questionnaire, and it plans to use them for a report to Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke this year on ways to speed up and decrease the costs of the processes.

President Donald Trump in March signed a Congressional Review Act resolution that revoked BLM's Planning 2.0 rule, which had updated those processes. Critics of that Obama-era rule, including fossil fuel companies, said it decreased the role of states and local field offices in planning and prioritized conservation over tapping into natural resources.

The request for comments reflects this administration's belief that "public engagement, especially at the local level, is a critical component of federal land management," acting BLM Director Michael Nedd said in a statement. BLM is already working with local groups, including the Western Governors' Association and the National Association of Counties, on possible solutions, Nedd said.

The CRA bars BLM from writing another rule that is substantially the same, so it remains unclear what Zinke will ultimately decide to do with the recommendations.

WHAT'S NEXT: BLM will be accepting comments through July 24.

To view online:
https://www.politicopro.com/energy/whiteboard/2017/07/blm-seeking-comment-on-improving-land-use-planning-process-090036

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Daily Environment Report

June 09, 2017 - Number 110

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Leading the News

Pesticides

Watchdog May Find EPA-Monsanto Links on Pesticides Routine

The EPA inspector general will look into a relationship between an agency deputy director in the pesticide program and Monsanto Co. But former agency officials say it's unlikely that the relationship was improper given the level of interaction required by agency staff and companies to safely register pesticides.

News

Asbestos

Asbestos Suit Against Shipping Firm Stays Afloat

Moore McCormack shipping line will again have to defend asbestos claims filed by the estate of a Portland, Or. shipyard worker after an Oregon appeals court reinstated the suit (Williams v. CBS Corp., 2017 BL 191856, Or. Ct. App., A158077, 6/7/17).

Biotechnology

Brazil Approves World's First Genetically Modified Sugar Cane

Brazilian regulators approved the world's first genetically modified sugar-cane as the country, which is the biggest producer of the commodity, tries recover the competitiveness it lost in recent years.

Budget

Lawmakers Doubtful About Interior Spending Cut Proposals

The Trump administration goal of a balanced federal budget within 10 years contributed to many of the proposed spending cuts for Interior Department programs, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke told House lawmakers June 8.

Contribution

ARCO Bid Seeks to Shift $1.2M in Hazmat Costs

Atlantic Richfield Co. will be allowed to file a countersuit over claims it is liable for $1.2 million in hazardous waste cleanup costs at a gas station, the Western District of Washington ruled June 7 (Wakefield Family LLC v. Atl. Richfield Co., 2017 BL 192294, W.D. Wash., No. 17-cv-5114, 6/7/17).

Drinking Water

Tap Water in 27 States Shows Levels of Toxic Chemicals: Report

The drinking water supplies of about 15 million residents in 27 states have unsafe levels of two potentially toxic chemicals once used in common household products, environmental advocates said in a June 8 report.

Energy

China's Clean Energy Ambition Floats on Abandoned Coal Mine

China's ambitions to dominate new energy technologies are unfolding at the site of an abandoned coal mine about 300 miles northwest of Shanghai.

Energy

Nuclear Subsidies Slow to Catch on as Opposition Steps Up

Almost a year after New York became the first state to approve subsidies for nuclear reactors threatened with closure, efforts to replicate the model elsewhere are proving a tough sell.

Energy

U.S., China Discuss American Liquid Natural Gas Exports

Energy Secretary Rick Perry advanced the prospect of expanding American liquid natural gas (LNG) exports to China during a June 8 meeting with Executive Vice Premier Zhang Gaoli in Beijing.

Mining

Maine Lawmakers Ban Open-Pit Mining, Approve Restrictions

Maine will ban open-pit mining, prohibit mining on public land, and restrict the industry elsewhere in the state under a far-reaching bill approved by lawmakers following the governor's veto.

Oil Spills

Trump Said to Mull Combining Agencies Separated After Gulf Spill

After the 2010 Gulf oil spill, the Obama administration broke the scandal-plagued federal agency that policed offshore drilling into separate bureaus.

Recycling

Recycle, Reuse Policies for Danish Businesses May Become Law

Builders and waste companies in Denmark could face new requirements to maximize the amount of materials they must recycle, re-purpose, and re-use under a series of proposals that could find their way into law.

Regulatory Policy

White House Thinking on Regulatory Budget Still Developing

Practical questions surround the implementation of President Donald Trump's executive order on regulation, even as the White House is still developing its regulatory goals for this administration.

Renewable Energy

German Renewables Peak as Country Bolsters Paris Commitment

Germany's latest wind and solar power record is unlikely to be the last as the nation deepens its commitment to a low-carbon economy in the face of U.S. President Donald Trump's decision to quit the Paris climate accord.

Renewable Energy

Hydro Overpowers Energy Needs in China

Unused energy from hydropower facilities in the southwest China provinces of Yunnan and Sichuan in 2016 was more than the amount needed to power Hebei, the main province surrounding Beijing, for a month, raising questions about the need for future projects.

Renewable Energy

U.K. Seen Headed for Subsidy Free Power from Offshore Wind Farms

Britain may soon join Germany in harvesting subsidy-free electricity from offshore wind farms, giving government ministers new options in securing power supplies that don't pollute.

Webinar

Webinar: Reviewing New Chemicals Under Amended TSCA

Bergeson & Campbell, P.C. and Bloomberg BNA present a free webinar Monday, June 12, "Reviewing New Chemicals Under Amended TSCA: Impact on Innovation." Speakers include Lynn Bergeson, managing partner of Bergeson & Campbell; Richard Engler, senior chemist at Bergeson & Campbell; Charlie Auer, senior regulatory and policy adviser at Bergeson & Campbell; Jeffery Morris, director of the Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics at the EPA; Beth Bosley, president of ...

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Daily Environment Report for EPA

To: Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
From: InsideEPA.com
Sent: Tue 5/30/2017 11:15:11 AM
Subject: The Morning Headlines from InsideEPA.com -- May 30, 2017

TRUMP'S EPA: Agency at a crossroads -- Complete coverage

May 30, 2017

Latest News

Pruitt's First 100 Days Advance EPA Rule Rollbacks But Spark Controversy

EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt's first 100 days in office include several early steps to block or undo a host of Obama-era regulations and reshape the agency with the expectation of major budget cuts, winning praise from GOP lawmakers and industry groups but outcry from some EPA staff and environmentalists over the moves.

Top Lawmakers Urge DOJ To Drop Support For Obama Claims In CWA Suit

House Republicans are pressing the Department of Justice (DOJ) to change its position in a closely watched Clean Water Act (CWA) enforcement case against a California farming operation, questioning why the Trump administration has maintained arguments first raised by the Obama DOJ that the legislators say misapply the water law.

Budget Cuts Seen Limiting EPA's Ability To Implement Deregulatory Push

The White House plan to drastically cut EPA's budget and workforce could, if enacted, undermine its ability to comply with President Donald Trump's deregulatory orders, observers say, complicating what could already be a difficult feat for an agency that faces many statutory and legal obligations to regulate.

EPA Appeals Ruling Setting Deadlines On Risk Reviews Of Air Toxics Rules

EPA is appealing a federal district court ruling imposing deadlines for the agency to conduct long-overdue reviews of whether to revise 13 air toxics rules to address risks to human health, planning to ask the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit to overturn the decision that is one of two such deadline rulings.

EPA's CCS Injection Proposal Boosts Pressure On California To 'Align' Rules

EPA's recent proposal to approve North Dakota as the first state to permit carbon capture and storage (CCS) injection wells is putting renewed pressure on California to “align” its pending rules for how CCS projects can earn lucrative carbon credits with the agency's permitting program, supporters of the technology say.

OMB Reviewing Draft EPA Guidance For States' Coal Ash Permit Programs

EPA has sent for White House pre-publication review a draft guidance for how states should craft permit programs for coal ash disposal, signaling the Trump administration's first major efforts to implement the 2016 law that revised an Obama-era ash rule by overhauling the enforcement provisions to give states delegated permit powers.

Environmentalists, Industry At Odds Over EPA's Plan For CBI Under TSCA

Environmentalists are sparring with petroleum and chemical manufacturers over how broadly EPA should apply confidential business information (CBI) restrictions preventing disclosure of data on substances that companies submit to the agency in order to comply with the revised Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA).

Daily Feed

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To: Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
From: POLITICO
Sent: Mon 6/19/2017 2:24:13 PM
Subject: BREAKING NEWS: Supreme Court rules the government can't refuse to register trademarks considered offensive

The Supreme Court has declared unconstitutional the federal government's practice of refusing to register trademarks that officials deem to be offensive.

The justices ruled in favor of Simon Tam, the front man for an all-Asian-American rock band known as "The Slants." The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office had refused to register the name, citing a law that denied trademarks that disparage individuals, institutions, beliefs or national symbols.

The result in the closely-watched case could doom legal challenges to other trademarks many consider offensive, such as that for the Washington Redskins football team.

Read more: http://www.politico.com/story/2017/06/19/supreme-court-rules-slants-case-239711

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Pruitt On Morning Joe: President Trump Is Putting America's Interest First

Click Here To Watch The Interview

KEY TAKEAWAYS

Why We Left Paris …

WILLIE GEIST: "You've seen reaction around the world to the withdrawal from the Paris Agreement. It hasn't been kind from our allies, it hasn't been kind from a lot people here in the United States. Could you just summarize for our viewers the decision that was made to pull out and why we did it?"

ADMINISTRATOR PRUITT: "When you look at what was agreed to in Paris, it put this country, our country at a disadvantage economically. Despite the fact, that we had taken several significant steps since the early-1990s with respect to reducing the co2 footprint. We're at pre-1994 levels with our co2 footprint. From 2000 to 2014, we reduced co2 emissions by 18-plus percent. We've been leading by action, in my estimation. What Paris represented was a commitment to achieve things that were unachievable. The previous administration, with every step they took in their climate action agenda, still fell 40% short of those 26 to 28% targets. What the decision was about was simply sending the message we're leading with action, not with words. We're going to make sure we put America first with respect to these decisions and continue to export our innovation and technology to the rest of the world with respect to how to reduce the co2 footprint."

President Trump's Work To Create American Jobs …

ADMINISTRATOR PRUITT: "The last seven months we've had a growing job market in the mining sector, including coal. We've had almost 50,000 jobs created since the 4th Quarter, of last year in the mining sector, including coal. We see actually optimism in that sector. Here is the deal: I really believe that we have to focus on the stability and security of our grid and make sure that as utility companies generate electricity, they generate electricity from a variety of sources, diverse sources to maintain that security."

America Has Made Tremendous Enviromental Progress …

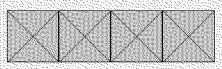
ADMINISTRATOR PRUITT: "So what happens when Germany goes all renewable? When they go away from nuclear and they go away from all of the fossil fuels, what happens to the cost of electricity in Germany?"

STEVE RATTNER: "Germany has a terrible, Germany, has a terrible energy policy and I will agree

with you on that."

ADMINISTRATOR PRUITT: "What happens to the economy in those countries? For developed nations, for growing economies in this world, we have nothing to be apologetic about. We have a strong, strong approach to reducing emissions and have demonstrated that from 2000 to 2014 as I indicated. We have nothing to be apologetic about."

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Subject: Sep. 08 -- EHS State Regulatory Alert



EHS State Regulatory Alert

September 08, 2017 - Number 173

You can create a report customized by topic, jurisdiction, and date range by using the Regulatory Summaries Report Tool. The report can be generated in Excel, Word, or PDF.

Maryland

AIR
Vehicle Emissions Inspection Program
Maryland AIR

Proposed rule of the Department of Transportation, Motor Vehicle Administration, and the Department of the Environment, amends regulations under COMAR 11.14.08.01, .03, .04, .05, and .09 regarding the vehicle emissions inspection program (VEIP). The rule delays when the initial VEIP inspection for new vehicles must occur from two years to 36 months after the vehicle's model year and exempts pre-1996 model year light-duty vehicles from VEIP inspection. The rule will be submitted to the EPA as a revision to the state implementation plan. A hearing is scheduled for Oct. 3, 2017, in Baltimore. Comments are due Oct. 3, 2017. Contact: Marcia Ways; MDE, Mobile Sources Control Program; 410-537-3270; marcia.ways@maryland.gov

—Maryland Register (09/01/2017)

Regulatory Update

Wisconsin

OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH
Conveyance Safety Code
Wisconsin OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH

Notice announces the intention of the Department of Safety and Professional Services to amend regulations under WAC SPS 305 and 318 regarding the conveyance safety code, which specifies standards for the design, construction, use, maintenance, alteration, and inspection of elevators, escalators, and lifts in public buildings, places of employment, and one- and two-family dwellings. The rule updates incorporated codes and guides of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers. A comment due date is not specified. Contact: Helen Leong; DSPS,

Division of Policy Development; 608-266-0797; DSPSAdminRules@wisconsin.gov

—Wisconsin Administrative Register (09/05/2017)

Regulatory Update

WATER
Runoff Management/Animal Feeding Operations
Wisconsin WATER

Proposed rule of the Department of Natural Resources amends regulations under WAC NR 151.015 and adopts regulations under WAC NR 151.075 and 243.143 to establish performance standards for mechanical application of manure by crop and livestock producers to Silurian bedrock cropland and pasture areas. The rule specifies Silurian bedrock maximum liquid manure application rates based on soil depth and texture; requires manure to be applied in conformance with a nutrient management plan; and prohibits application of manure for soils with less than two feet to Silurian bedrock, where application will cause fecal contamination of water in a well, and within certain distances of water systems and groundwater conduits. The rule also requires concentrated animal feeding operations in Silurian bedrock areas to comply with performance standards through their Wisconsin Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit regardless of any local ordinance and absent cost sharing. In addition, the rule requires nonpermitted farms in Silurian bedrock areas to comply with performance standards in specified circumstances. Hearings are scheduled for Sept. 15, 2017, in Green Bay and Madison. Comments are due Sept. 27, 2017. Contact: Mike Gilbertson; DNR; 608-267-7628; mike.gilbertson@wisconsin.gov

—Wisconsin Administrative Register (09/05/2017)

Regulatory Update

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EHS State Regulatory Alert

To: Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
From: Anna Palmer Jake Sherman Daniel Lippman
Sent: Tue 6/13/2017 10:33:19 AM
Subject: POLITICO Playbook, presented by POET: TRUMP'S lunch companions today -- FIRST IN PLAYBOOK: Sergey Kislyak plays host for Russia Day -- the DAWSEY DOWNLOAD -- GOP and DEM talking points on Sessions -- GOP to Trump: Don't dump Mueller -- B'DAY: Eli Stokols

View online version | Add politicoplaybook@politico.com to your address book.

Today's PLAYBOOK presented by POET
06/13/2017 06:29 AM EDT

By JAKE SHERMAN (sherman@politico.com; @JakeSherman) and ANNA PALMER (anna@politico.com; @apalmerdc) with DANIEL LIPPMAN (daniel@politico.com; @dlippman)

Driving the Day

Listen to the Playbook Audio Briefing http://bit.ly/2snuwdR ... ***Subscribe on iTunes*** http://apple.co/2eX6Eay ... ***Visit the online home of Playbook*** http://politi.co/2f51Jnf

Good Tuesday morning. FIRST IN PLAYBOOK: As Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell works to craft an Obamacare replacement bill, **PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP** is having lunch today with 13 senators to "discuss the status" of the process. **TRUMP'S DINING PARTNERS:** Sens. Rob Portman (Ohio), John Thune (S.D.), Pat Toomey (Pa.), Mike Lee (Utah), Ted Cruz (Texas), Lamar Alexander (Tenn.), John Barrasso (Wyo.), Cory Gardner (Colo.), Tom Cotton (Ark.), Lisa Murkowski (Alaska), Susan Collins (Maine), Joni Ernst (Iowa) and Orrin Hatch (Utah).

-- HEALTH CARE STATUS REPORT: BURGESS EVERETT: "Senate GOP reins in expectations for killing Obamacare: Some Republican lawmakers are growing worried about their tight time frame for overhauling health care": "Senate Republicans are aggressively trying to rein in expectations for their Obamacare repeal effort, wary of blowing a deadline or falling short of 50 votes on a promise that has driven the GOP's political strategy for much of the past decade. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell is still aiming for an Obamacare repeal vote in June, though his lieutenants acknowledge that deadline could slip into July. And while GOP leaders want to hold the vote as soon as possible, Republicans continue to avoid hard deadlines and say factors outside their control could strike.

"'It's like having a baby,' said Senate Majority Whip John Cornyn (R-Texas). 'It's not here yet, but it's coming.' ... A public copy of the bill or the CBO score are not expected until just days before any vote, minimizing the ability of opposition to mobilize, aides said. If a June vote is not possible, Republicans hope to at least to have an agreement on a bill before heading home for the July 4 recess." http://politi.co/2rlTGcD

PLAYBOOK EXCLUSIVE -- SERGEY KISLYAK TRYING TO REPAIR FRAYED U.S.-RUSSIA RELATIONS: Embattled Russian diplomat Sergey Kislyak played host to Washington insiders and diplomats at the Russian Embassy Monday night, greeting guests one-by-one in a long receiving line at the embassy in honor of Russia Day. Attendees were encouraged to pose for photos with signs that said "I love Russia" and post them on Facebook, Instagram and other social networks.

The frayed U.S.-Russia relationship was clearly on the embassy's mind as they handed out a pamphlet highlighting the two countries' close relationship. On the cover: "As an American, I love Russia - friend of Washington and Lincoln." At the top of the second page, there was this: "As an American, I love Russia because if not for Russia, there may not have been a United States of America."

Russia's top seven reasons for the close U.S.-Russia ties: "1. During the birth of our Nation, Russia supported the Thirteen Colonies in their way of Independence from Britain. 2. Russia helped preserve the Union during the American Civil War. 3. Alaska, California and Hawaii became States of the Union due to friendly US-Russian relations. 4. Russia was our ally in both World Wars 5. Russian International Peace Initiatives are the foundation of the United Nations. 6. Russian Arts and Sciences have enriched the world, and Russian Americans have made great contributions to American culture. 7. Russian President Putin was the first to call American President Bush to offer help and condolences after the tragedy of 9/11."

SPEAKING OF THOSE CLOSE TIES -- "Russian Breach of 39 States Threatens Future U.S. Elections," by Bloomberg's Michael Riley and Jordan Robertson: "Russian hackers hit election systems in at least 39 states before Donald Trump's election as president, according to a person with direct knowledge of the matter, an attack on almost twice as many states as previously reported. The hacks were part of a wave of intrusions in the summer and fall of 2016, details of which were provided by the person and two others familiar with a U.S. investigation of the attacks. Hackers breached a campaign finance database in at least one unidentified state, they said, and tried to alter or delete data from a voter database in Illinois.

"The scope and sophistication of the attacks so concerned the White House that Obama administration officials for the first time used a dedicated communication channel -- the cyber equivalent of the nuclear 'red phone' -- to signal to the Kremlin that the attacks risked escalating into a broader conflict, according to two of the people. The U.S. also provided detailed documents it considered proof of an act of aggression, which they said met with a chilly Russian response." https://bloom.bg/2rVU2p9

-- COMING ATTRACTIONS: "Senate deal to boost Russia sanctions seen as imminent," by Elana Schor: "Senators are vetting the language of a bipartisan deal to punish Russia that would allow Congress to disapprove of any attempt by President Donald Trump to ease sanctions on Moscow, Foreign Relations Chairman Bob Corker said late Monday. Whether the Tennessee Republican's optimism translates into a vote

this week remains to be seen, however, with Democrats declining to confirm that a deal is done.

"If the Senate can pass a strong Russia sanctions package, Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) and Minority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-N.Y.) could both claim a measure of victory - while also dealing a blow to the White House, which has floated a possible deal to roll back penalties on Vladimir Putin's government in exchange for further cooperation on anti-terrorism efforts." http://politi.co/2tgm2li

FIRST IN PLAYBOOK: THE DAWSEY DOWNLOAD -- "One of President Trump's closest friends spent several hours in the White House Monday and emerged to say on TV that the president may fire Robert Mueller, the special prosecutor, and that it would be a 'significant mistake.' It was an only-in-Trump's White House kind of moment.

"Senior aides said the friend, Chris Ruddy, was only speculating, and said Trump was unlikely to can the former FBI director. One official said Ruddy didn't meet with the president -- but instead spent several hours with senior administration aides. 'I wouldn't take it too seriously,' a White House official said.

"The reality is that Trump has sounded out associates about his concerns over Mueller -- and no one knows what he might do. Trump would be making a big mistake if he tried to fire Mueller, and they don't believe he will, aides said. He has been warned against it 'by almost everyone,' one adviser said. But he is often governed by self-preservation. He hates losing control of situations. He often lashes out when he feels someone could damage him. Plus, surrogates have begun telling him what trouble Mueller could pose. He met several times with New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie at Bedminster over the weekend.

"So, yes, it seems unlikely Trump will try to fire Mueller. But then again, no one expected him to fire James Comey."

-- SPICER STATEMENT, delivered by email from Sean to reporters: "Mr. Ruddy never spoke to the President regarding this issue. With respect to this subject, only the President or his attorneys are authorized to comment."

-- RUDDY DOUBLES DOWN , in email to us: "Spicer issued a bizarre late night press release that a) doesn't deny my claim the President is considering firing Mueller and b) says I didn't speak to the President about the matter -- when I never claimed to have done so. Memo to Sean: focus your efforts on exposing the flim-flam Russian allegations against POTUS and highlighting his remarkable achievements! Don't waste time trying to undermine one of your few allies."

-- THE STRANGE THING: The White House still won't comment on if, in fact, the president is considering getting rid of Mueller.

BUT, BUT, BUT ... -- "Republicans to Trump: Hands off Mueller," by Austin Wright

and Kyle Cheney: "Republican lawmakers have a warning for President Donald Trump: Don't mess with Robert Mueller. Some Trump allies have begun agitating for Trump to fire the man appointed just last month as a special counsel to oversee the Justice Department's investigation of Russian meddling in the 2016 presidential election. ... But that would be a huge mistake, Republican lawmakers said Monday. 'It would be a disaster,' said Sen. Lindsey Graham (R-S.C.) 'There's no reason to fire Mueller. What's he done to be fired?'" http://politi.co/2rqdnvd

-- COME ON, NEWT! @ReaganBattalion: "Less than a month ago @newtgingrich hailed Mueller as a 'superb choice' with an 'IMPECCABLE' reputation. Today he says he can't be trusted." http://bit.ly/2sWRupg

****** **A message from POET - one of the world's largest ethanol producers:** Led by scientists and engineers, POET operates 30 biofuel facilities & America's first cellulosic biofuel plant. We produce a cleaner fuel for millions of drivers, every day. We're POET and we're driving innovation, from the ground up. Learn more here. ******

HAPPENING TODAY -- "Sessions to face sharp questions on Russia contacts," by AP's Eric Tucker and Deb Riechmann: "Attorney General Jeff Sessions is preparing for sharp questions from his former Senate colleagues about his role in the firing of James Comey, his Russian contacts during the campaign and his decision to recuse from an investigation into possible ties between Moscow and associates of President Donald Trump. The public testimony Tuesday before the Senate intelligence committee should yield Sessions' most extensive comments to date on questions that have dogged his entire tenure as attorney general and that led him three months ago to step aside from the Russia probe." http://apne.ws/2rquQ6D

-- WHAT NOT TO EXPECT: "Sessions won't reveal information about conversations with Trump," by Tara Palmeri and Josh Gerstein: "Jeff Sessions does not plan to reveal information about his private conversations with President Donald Trump during his testimony tomorrow before the Senate Intel Committee, according to sources close to the Attorney General. The sources said the former senator and Trump loyalist is unlikely to talk about any direct conversations with the president. 'I wouldn't expect the attorney general to discuss that,' the source said. It was unclear whether the Attorney General would cite executive privilege as such, or simply say he wants to preserve the confidentiality of his discussions with Trump." http://politi.co/2svFrly ... ***The Sessions hearing is today at 2:30 p.m. in Hart 216.***

THE TALKING POINTS ...

-- Johanna Persing , RNC director of media affairs, emailed GOP communicators late Monday with a series of talking points for surrogates ahead of Sessions' hearing. GOP talking points include: Trump has done nothing wrong; Sessions "continues to be open, honest and transparent;" Sessions' meeting with Russian officials is standard practice; and asks surrogates to push for more answers on former Attorney General Loretta Lynch and fired FBI director James Comey's interactions. ***The email***

http://politi.co/2rqfSh6

-- Constance Boozer, Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer's director of surrogate and media affairs, emailed "friends and allies" Monday afternoon with their own set of talking points ahead of the Sessions hearing. Topline message: Sessions needs to answer several questions and to step down. "The fact that he isn't willing to appear before the Committee with jurisdiction over the Department of Justice, the Judiciary Committee, shows that 'the cloud' of the Russia investigation makes it impossible for him to do the job of Attorney General," Boozer wrote. ***The email*** http://politi.co/2rqbVci

WHAT TRUMP WANTS TO BE TALKING ABOUT -- "Trump's White House wants to change the subject: Trump, smarting over coverage of Russia probes, thinks his administration doesn't get enough credit," by Matt Nussbaum and Josh Dawsey: "The White House has been spending more time trying to focus staff on weekly agenda items, two administration officials said. Senior officials have tried to cheer up younger aides by reminding them that 'voters aren't going to make their choices based on some hard-to-understand, he-said, she-said accusation,' one said, adding that the White House believes voters will stand by them if the economy remains strong. ... Trump also inaccurately declared on Monday that he'd 'passed more legislation' than any predecessor besides Franklin D. Roosevelt. Harry Truman passed 55 bills in his first 100 days, while Trump had signed 48 by his 142nd day. Many of those have been to designate buildings or other less noticeable actions." ***With a Josh Holmes cameo*** http://politi.co/2rqik75

DEMOCRATS' SILVER LINING -- "Trump hearings hatch Democratic stars," by Gabe Debenedetti: "California Sen. Kamala Harris had the latest star turn last week, with her tough interrogation of Director of National Intelligence Dan Coats and National Security Agency Director Adm. Mike Rogers and questioning of former FBI Director James Comey. Before that, it was Minnesota Sen. Al Franken, whose revealing cross-examination of Attorney General Jeff Sessions sparked a boomlet of fresh presidential speculation earlier this year. Virginia Sen. Mark Warner has seen his work on the Senate Intelligence Committee suddenly revive talk of his national prospects, which had faded after he laid the groundwork roughly a decade ago. ...

"The beneficiaries of the surge in attention aren't limited to members of the key committees on the Trump beat - the Intelligence and Judiciary panels. First-term Connecticut Sen. Chris Murphy, for example, has been especially active in speaking out about the Russia probes and on immigration, leading to reports that the White House is now eying him as a potential 2020 opponent. Yet it's the former prosecutors Harris, Minnesota Sen. Amy Klobuchar, and California Rep. Adam Schiff who have been front-and-center in harnessing the party's fury, largely because they've been the ones in the televised spotlight." http://politi.co/2siKKny

DEPT. OF YA CAN'T MAKE IT UP -- "Former NBA player Dennis Rodman arrives in North Korea," by AP's Eric Talmadge in Pyongyang: "Dennis Rodman, the former NBA bad boy who has palled around with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, flew back

to Pyongyang on Tuesday for the first time in Donald Trump's presidency. He said he is 'just trying to open a door' on a mission that he thinks his former 'Celebrity Apprentice' boss would support. Rodman, one of the few people to know both of the nuclear-armed leaders, sported a black T-shirt advertising a marijuana cybercurrency as he talked to reporters briefly before his flight from Beijing to the North Korean capital. Asked if he had spoken to Trump about his trip, he said, 'Well, I'm pretty sure he's pretty much happy with the fact that I'm over here trying to accomplish something that we both need. ...

"'We are aware of his visit. We wish him well, but we have issued travel warnings to Americans and suggested they not travel to North Korea for their own safety,' U.S. Undersecretary of State Thomas Shannon told reporters after discussing the North Korean missile threat and other issues with Japanese counterparts." http://apne.ws/2tguZuP

THE CABINET MEETING HEARD AROUND THE WORLD ...

-- NYT'S JULIE HIRSCHFELD DAVIS: "Mr. Trump transformed a routine meeting of senior members of his government into a mood-boosting, ego-stroking display of support for himself and his agenda. While the president never explicitly asked to be praised, Mr. Pence set the worshipful tone, and Mr. Trump made it clear he liked what he heard. 'Thank you, Mick,' he told Mick Mulvaney, his budget director. 'Good job,' he told Scott Pruitt, his E.P.A. chief. 'Very good, Daniel,' he said to Dan Coats, the director of national intelligence. ... In a video posted with the tweet, Senator Chuck Schumer, Democrat of New York and the minority leader, sat at a table with young staff members who, at his prompting, praised his performance on Sunday talk shows and the appearance of his hair. One repeated Mr. Priebus's quotation word for word, prompting the senator and his aides to erupt into laughter." http://nyti.ms/2tgdudT

-- @SenSchumer: "GREAT meeting today with the best staff in the history of the world!!!" http://bit.ly/2swimPy

HOW IT'S PLAYING -- Reuters: **"At Trump's Cabinet meeting, flattery is flavor of the day"** http://reut.rs/2tfZHnK ... AP: **"Who loves him more? Trump's cabinet members gush at meeting"** http://apne.ws/2rlNeCF ... WaPo: **"Praise for the chief: Trump's Cabinet tells him it's an 'honor' and 'blessing' to serve"** http://wapo.st/2rlwBXO ... ***Full video*** http://nbcnews.to/2rdiYWa

-- @ChrisLu44 (whose birthday was yesterday): "I ran 16 Cabinet meetings during Obama's 1st term. Our Cabinet was never told to sing Obama's praises. He wanted candid advice not adulation

WELCOME TO WASHINGTON -- "Melania Trump Leaves New York Behind for the White House," by NYT's Maggie Haberman: "Melania Trump will attend a congressional picnic in the final days of June. She will start filling out her roster of aides. She will get her son settled into his new home and, then, in the fall, a new school. And

she will turn attention to the range of issues that a first lady has the ability to affect.

"For the first time since President Trump was inaugurated , his wife is living full time in the White House. She and the couple's 11-year-old son, Barron, left Trump Tower in Manhattan behind over the weekend, a transition that the first lady announced on her husband's favorite medium, Twitter, after it was completed. ...

"Mrs. Trump's immediate focus is likely to be inside the White House , where her husband has become increasingly isolated from his party and even his own staff since his abrupt firing of James B. Comey, the director of the F.B.I. 'She is the president's never-ending barometer of reality, and she delivers candor and honesty blended with selfless love for him and his family in equal doses,' said Thomas J. Barrack Jr., a close friend of the Trumps who has known the first lady since 1998." http://nyti.ms/2swbS2V

-- WAPO'S KRISSAH THOMPSON: "Five questions about Melania Trump's move to the White House": "Will Melania Trump keep her husband from sending controversial wee-hours tweets? ... Will she build an advocacy program, such as Michelle Obama's 'Let's Move' or Laura Bush's National Book Festival, or undertake any restoration projects in the White House? ... How will Barron Trump's presence change life in the White House? ... Will Melania Trump engage with D.C.'s social scene? ... How will Melania Trump leave her mark on the job?" http://wapo.st/2rVvblm

-- "Barron Trump's 'The Expert' T-shirt sells out at J. Crew," by The Washington Examiner's Leah DePiero: "The T-shirt Barron Trump wore while exiting Marine One with his parents on Sunday as he and first lady Melania Trump officially moved into the White House has sold out on J. Crew as of Monday. The gray cotton ringer T-shirt with the words 'The Expert' in blue lettering gained attention after 11-year-old Barron paired it with dark jeans and sneakers on Sunday. 'We're sorry. This item has been so popular, it has sold out,' J. Crew's website said of the $29.50 shirt." http://washex.am/2sndsEH

IT'S ALL HAPPENING -- "Former Trump campaign manager Corey Lewandowski shopping book - again," by CNN's Oliver Darcy: "Publishers were told to submit offers to Lewandowski's agent, Mel Berger of WME Entertainment, by a Friday deadline ... Berger was expecting to ultimately fetch seven figures for the book deal. It was not clear what Lewandowski's book would be about. A proposal wasn't submitted, likely to avoid details leaking to the public, the source added. Lewandowski previously had an offer from HarperCollins worth $1.2 million, but lost it over concerns about a nondisclosure agreement he signed during the campaign, Politico reported last June. This time around, however, publishers were told Lewandowski had been able to obtain a waiver of the nondisclosure agreement, one of the sources familiar with the matter said." http://cnnmon.ie/2rd6Ft5

TRUMP'S TUESDAY -- He's meeting with H.R. McMaster, lunching with members of the Senate and then will go to Milwaukee. In Milwaukee he will meet with "Obamacare victims," speak about health care and tour Waukesha County Technical College. He will then hold a roundtable on "workforce development." He'll also speak at a fundraiser for

Gov. Scott Walker before returning to D.C.

VIRGINIANS HEAD TO THE POLLS TODAY -- WAPO: "Just tuning in to Virginia governor's race? We'll help you do your homework" http://wapo.st/2swFRYR

THE JUICE ...

--@maggieNYT: "In other non-Mueller news, Ivanka Trump, who excoriated the 'viciousness' of Washington on Fox, made a visit with Conde Nast brass at 1WTC"

-- SPOTTED: FORMER ATTORNEY GENERAL ERIC HOLDER yesterday on the new Delta LAX to DCA flight in Delta One (first class), watching "Eight Days a Week," the Ron Howard documentary about The Beatles.

-- PEACOCK UPDATE: The MSNBC shows "Hardball," "Andrea Mitchell Reports" and "MSNBC Live" with Hallie Jackson have all moved to the NBC studios at 400 North Capitol. Yesterday was the first day in the new studios. They join Greta van Susteren's "For the Record," which has aired from the Capitol Hill location since its inception.

-- THE NRCC disclosed another $833,526 in media spending against Jon Ossoff in Georgia's sixth congressional district.

WARRIORS WIN NBA TITLE -- L.A. TIMES TANIA GANGULI: "'I remember plenty of times throughout my career I continued to just look in the past and look ahead and not stay in the moment,' [MVP Kevin] Durant said. 'In this series I just stayed in the moment. And we did it together. ... You call us a super team, but it's been a lot of super teams that [haven't] worked, and we came together and we continued to just believe in each other and we sacrificed and we're champions now.'" http://lat.ms/2rdsl8so

Playbook Reads

PHOTO DU JOUR: Mourners light candles at the Pulse nightclub in Orlando, Florida on June 12. A gunman opened fire at the nightclub one year ago in the worst mass shooting in modern U.S. history, killing 49 people. | Stephen M. Dowell/Orlando Sentinel via AP Photo

NEW BUZZFEED INVESTIGATION (with six bylines) -- **"POISON IN THE SYSTEM":** "The British government is suppressing explosive intelligence that Alexander Perepilichnyy, a financier who exposed a vast financial crime by Russian government officials, was likely assassinated on the direct orders of Vladimir Putin. Perepilichnyy, who faced repeated threats after fleeing to Britain, was found dead outside his home in Surrey after returning from a mysterious trip to Paris in 2012. Despite an expert detecting signs of a fatal plant poison in his stomach, the British police have insisted

there was no evidence of foul play, and Theresa May's government has invoked national security powers to withhold evidence from the inquest into his cause of death - which is ongoing. But an investigation by BuzzFeed News has now obtained fresh evidence that the authorities have deliberately sidelined, and has uncovered how Perepilichnyy spent his last days in Paris." http://bzfd.it/2tfTF6z

MORE MCAULIFFE ON ISAAC DOVERE'S 'OFF MESSAGE' -- THROWING SHADE AT HILLARY -- "We, as a party, need to understand what happened," the Virginia governor told Isaac Dovere in the new Off Message podcast, live today. "My advice would be to Hillary, 'There's enough people that will do that and get that information out.'" McAuliffe says she never asked him to join her PAC. He told Isaac he didn't even know what it was called. Here's the exchange: "What is the name of it?" "Onward Together." "Terrific." "Like 'Stronger Together.'" "Got it," he says. "Very clever." http://politi.co/2rlFyQF ... ***Listen and Subscribe*** http://apple.co/2nEa7y0

WHAT WALL STREET IS READING -- "Goldman's Blankfein, Citi's Corbat Duped by Email Prankster," by WSJ's Liz Hoffman and Telis Demos: "The chief executives of Goldman Sachs Group Inc. and Citigroup Inc. are the latest bank bosses to be hooked by an email prankster trolling top Wall Street brass, exposing a low-tech gap in banks' cybersecurity armor. Goldman's Lloyd Blankfein and Citigroup's Michael Corbat, as well as Citigroup consumer-banking chief Stephen Bird, responded over the weekend to emails sent by the anonymous prankster masquerading as top executives at the two banks. The hoaxer ... on Sunday published screenshots of the exchanges on Twitter. ... None of the executives disclosed sensitive information in responding to the prankster, but the repeated episodes flag concerns about whether banks have done enough to guard against online threats." http://on.wsj.com/2swiMW8

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MEDIAWATCH -- "Facebook Building Feature to Let Users Subscribe to News Publications," by WSJ's Deepa Seetharaman and Lukas Alpert: "Facebook Inc. may soon help its users do something unfamiliar on the platform: pay for news. The social-media giant is building a feature that would allow users to subscribe to publishers directly from the mobile app, according to people familiar with the matter. The feature, long-requested by publishers, is expected to roll out by the end of 2017 ... Facebook [is] leaning toward a metered-payment model, which would allow users to read some articles for free each month before prompting them to pay, three of the people familiar with the matter said." http://on.wsj.com/2snc4Sy

-- L.A. Times national correspondent Nigel Duara is leaving for a role as a correspondent on HBO's "Vice News Tonight." Duara, also an AP alum, will serve as a national correspondent, beginning June 19.

Playbookers

SPOTTED: HHS Secretary Tom Price drinking a beer at the Nationals game last night cheering on the Braves with some other HHSers. ... Dr. Ben Carson yesterday on a Delta Shuttle from DCA to LGA, seated in Delta Comfort+ seat 7D ... Ivanka at LaGuardia yesterday near the gate for the DCA shuttle (with lots of Secret Service with her) ... Sen. Joe Manchin (D-W.Va.) talking on his cell-phone yesterday afternoon in the Watergate Hotel library ... Ron Brownstein yesterday catching a foul ball at Nationals Park -- ***Doug Heye's Instapic*** http://bit.ly/2snwVVJ ... Rep. Ami Bera (D-Calif.) sitting at the head of a packed table off the lobby of 20 F Street, NW. ...

... Ashton Kutcher and Sen. Bob Corker (R-Tenn.) sharing a stage at the 2017 Rotary Convention in Atlanta to discuss the issue of modern day slavery and the current efforts in curbing human sex trafficking around the world. ***Pics*** http://bit.ly/2snyH9y ... http://bit.ly/2siO6H8 ... Laurel Strategies CEO Alan Fleischmann having breakfast yesterday morning at the Four Seasons with Stedman Graham.

OUT AND ABOUT -- Ed Cash held his semiannual Bipartisan Homeland Security reception last night at Clyde's in Chinatown. The event brings together the homeland security teams from the Bush, Obama and now Trump Administrations. More than 350 guests attended the event and heard remarks from Secretary John Kelly, former Secretary Michael Chertoff and former Deputy Secretary Ali Mayorkas. ***Pic of Secretary Kelly addressing attendees*** http://bit.ly/2tgIgDo

SPOTTED: Sen. Ron Johnson (R-Wis.), deputy Secretary of Homeland Security Elaine Duke, DHS chief of staff Kirstjen Nielsen, White House OMB associate director Kathy Kraninger, Admiral Thad Allen, Chad Sweet, DHS assistant secretary for public affairs Jonathan Hoffman, FEMA deputy administrator Dave Grant, White House Military Office director Dab Kern, DC Homeland Security chief Brian Baker, Rich Serino, Christian Marrone, Will Booher, and many more.

SPOTTED at Dave Weigel's book party last night at Black Cat to celebrate "The Show That Never Ends: The Rise and Fall of Prog Rock" -- ***$18.32 on Amazon:*** http://amzn.to/2s5zetB : Julia Ioffe, Asawin Suebsaeng, Elizabeth Nolan Brown, Wesley Lowery, Olivia Nuzzi, John Hudson, Taylor Lorenz, Ezra Klein, Annie Lowery, Rosie Gray, Carolyn Fiddler, Bob Draper, Paul Kane, Josh Green, Kevin Robillard, Byron Tau, Rebecca Leber, Stephanie Slade, Jesse Walker, Matt Gertz, Peter Suderman, Meghan McArdle, Jim Newell, Tierney Sneed, Brian Beutler, Benjy Sarlin, Hadas Gold, Brendan Karet, Eric Boehm, Igor Bobic, Alyssa Rosenberg, John Tabin, Alex Parker, Eric

Michael Garcia, Betsy Woodruff, Pema Levy, Travis Waldron.

ENGAGED -- Patrick Crowley (of Dayblink Consulting, soon to be getting his MBA at UNC) popped the question on Saturday to AEI senior media associate **Meg Cahill.** "She gladly said yes to her longtime Notre Dame college sweetheart and AEI's communications team looks forward to celebrating the happy couple when they return on our Dupont Circle rooftop!" After getting engaged, the couple then went on an already planned vacation to Puerto Rico. ***Pic*** http://politi.co/2swlb35

TRANSITIONS -- Former Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack is joining the board of directors of Feeding America, which is the nation's largest hunger relief organization with 200 food banks serving every state. http://politi.co/2rm0K9j ... **Ashley Pratte** has been hired to be the director of public affairs at The Herald Group; she most recently has been director of media relations and public affairs at the American Legislative Exchange Council. ... **Constance Boozer,** formerly of HFA (Brooklyn), is now Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer's director of surrogates and media affairs. She got promoted from within the office, where she's been working since November. ...

... Marcel Lettre has joined Lockheed Martin as VP for national security. He previously was under secretary of defense for intelligence and has also worked on the Hill. ... **Emily Hecht-McGowan** is joining the Biden Foundation's team as policy director for equality. She previously was Family Equality Council's chief policy officer. http://politi.co/2rcVZuF ... **Ed Murphy,** a former researcher for Illinois Gov. Bruce Rauner and the RNC, has joined Prospect Strategic Communications as the opposition-research firm's newest partner. Ed will be based in Chicago, while the firm's other two partners, Kris Anderson and Webber Steinhoff, are based in LA and D.C.

BIRTHWEEK (was yesterday): Chris Lu, former deputy secretary of Labor and longtime Obamaworld person who is now at FiscalNote and the Miller Center, turned 51. He celebrated by "cheering on the Nats and toasting birthday-mate George H.W. Bush, whose decency and integrity is sorely missed in the White House right now," per our anonymous birthday tipster ... Michael Pollack, former clerk for Justice Sotomayor and future Cardozo Law professor (hat tip: David Helfenbein) ... **(was Saturday):** Ayesha Rascoe, White House reporter at Reuters (h/t Roberta Rampton)

BIRTHDAY OF THE DAY: WSJ White House reporter **Eli Stokols,** Politico alum, the pride of Irvine, California and erstwhile Mile High resident. How he's celebrating: "Just going out to dinner with my girlfriend, Elena Schneider. I've been told we're going to Rose's." Read his Playbook Plus Q&A: http://politi.co/2sX56AP

BIRTHDAYS: L.A. Times political writer Seema Mehta ... former U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon is 73 ... Mike Norton, Arkansan, Truman/Marshall Scholar and former Hill intern ... Katie Biber Chen, Romney GC and Bush 43 alum now general counsel at Thumbtack in SF (h/t Sarah Isgur Flores) ... Jimmy Orr ... John Del Cecato, partner at AKPD Message and Media ... Cathy McLaughlin (h/ts Teresa Vilmain) ... Marissa Shorenstein, SVP of the east region at AT&T, one of the youngest senior

executives in the company's history (h/t Keri Kohler) ... Rep. Jerry Nadler (D-N.Y.) is 7-0 (h/t James Owens) ... Politico's Margaret McGill ... William Lewallen ... Rep. Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-DC) is 8-0 ... Leslie Hagar Small ... Neil Bernstein ... Bill Mergner, director at AQN Strategies ... Philip Rosenthal ... NBC alum Morgan Pitt, now an events coordinator at Grand Ole Opry House in Nashville ...

... Nicole Gelinas, senior fellow at the Manhattan Institute and a contributing editor to City Journal ... Ryan Rhodes ... WSJ alum Andrew Grossman, now a student at Wharton ... Jenny Eisen Verdery, yoga instructor and former lobbyist at Intel, celebrating 5-0 at Machu Picchu in Peru (h/t Stewart) ... Charlie Nichols is 15 ... Michelle Lee of WaPo's Fact-Checker blog ... NBC4's Eun Yang ... R. Brian Lewis, a good man from Nebraska ... Jim Fellinger, press secretary at Concerned Veterans for America (h/t Rebecca Coffman) ... Kirtan Mehta ... Lauren Mehta ... Sagar Vachhani ... Alex Marino of Civis Analytics ... Andrew Lavigne ... Judge Neil Cohen ... Sarah Hurwitz ... Margaret Shepard, managing director of 1776, celebrating in France (h/t Peter Cherukuri) ... Genger Charles ... Patrick G. Cronin ... Michelle Korsmo ... Patrick McGill is 31 ... Bill Buck is 5-0 ... John Eddy, partner at SourceRock Partners ... Jeff Siegel is 4-0 ... Junheng Li ... Rick Weidman is 71 ... Tony Varona ... Neil Bernstein is 51 ... WTOP's Brian Oliger ... artist Christo is 82 ... Siegfried (Siegfried & Roy) is 78 ... Hannah Storm is 55 ... Mary-Kate and Ashley Olsen are 31 (h/ts AP)

****** **A message from POET - one of the world's largest ethanol producers:** Led by scientists and engineers, POET is a biofuels company built from innovation. POET operates 30 biofuel facilities across eight states & America's first cellulosic biofuel plant. Across the country, we support 40,000 renewable energy jobs producing a cleaner fuel for millions of drivers, every day. Inside the Beltway, we advocate for pro-biofuel policies to remove barriers to consumer fuel choices with a Reid Vapor Pressure (RVP) fix, support a strong Renewable Fuel Standard, and open new markets for U.S. exports and trade. We are securing a cleaner future for all of us. We are POET and we're driving innovation, from the ground up. Learn more here. ******

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To: Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
From: EPA Press Office
Sent: Fri 6/16/2017 7:43:19 PM
Subject: EPA's Weekly Round-Up For 06/16/17

The EPA's Weekly Round-Up ...

Between G-7 meetings in Italy, testifying before Congress about President Trump's budget that protects the environment, putting the brakes on Obama's methane rule, responding to 386 of the 416 letters from Congress and cleaning-up brownfield sites across the country, it was a results-driven week at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

NATIONAL NEWS …

Administrator Pruitt was in Italy at the G-7 where he talked about the new priorities of the Trump Administration. "Respective of the importance to engage with longstanding allies and key international partners, we approached the climate discussions head on from a position of strength and clarity. We are resetting the dialogue to say Paris is not the only way forward to making progress. Today's action of reaching consensus makes clear that the Paris Agreement is not the only mechanism by which environmental stewardship can be demonstrated. It also demonstrates our commitment to honest conversations, which are the cornerstone of constructive international dialogue, " said Administrator Scott Pruitt.

Need to Know News reports that Scott Pruitt testified before the House of Representatives and said that the EPA is focused on the rule of law and cooperative federalism. "EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt laid out his vision for his agency at a House Appropriations subcommittee hearing on Thursday, saying the EPA will focus on the rule of law and cooperative federalism. He expressed confidence that the EPA can accomplish these goals on a 'trimmed budget.' 'We're reversing an attitude and approach that one can simply reimagine authority under statutes passed by this body,' Pruitt said."

Click Here To Watch The Video

The editorial board at the Wall Street Journal reports that unlike the Obama Administration, EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt is committed to cleaning up Superfunds sites. "One cost of making climate change a religion is that more immediate environmental problems have been ignored—not least by the Environmental Protection Agency. New EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt plans to address that in an underreported effort to clean up toxic waste sites under the so-called Superfund program. In a memo to EPA staff last month, Mr. Pruitt announced a plan to reform the Superfund program created in 1980 and to accelerate the clean up of hazardous waste sites such as old industrial properties or landfills. The effort is long overdue. Superfund has too often become a sinecure for the bureaucracy and a cash cow for lawyers. EPA staff offices can wait years or decades to assess a Superfund site, figure out who's liable for what, consult with the community, decide on a remedy and assign the actual work."

The Hill reports that the EPA has put the brakes on the Obama Administration's methane rule. "The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has proposed pausing an Obama administration oil

and gas pollution rule for two years while it reconsiders the regulation."

The Washington Free Beacon reports that the EPA has been incredibly responsive to requests from the Senate EPW Committee. "The Environmental Protection Agency has responded to half of a Senate oversight committee's information requests, undermining a top Democrat's claim that he is blocking nominees because the agency has not answered his letters."

The Washington Examiner reports that the EPA has been incredibly responsive to Congress and responded to 386 out of 416 letters sent to the agency. "The Environmental Protection Agency doesn't think the numbers add up on the complaints raised by Democratic Sen. Tom Carper of Delaware over unanswered letters. 'We've responded to 386 of the 416 letters received from Congress, including 11 of the 20 letters received from' Carper, the top Democrat on the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, said EPA spokesman Jahan Wilcox, citing EPA's latest tally conducted Tuesday."

The EPA released a new web video highlighting that our farmers are true environmentalists. **"**"Farmers are the true environmentalists…the stewards of the land' – Kim, on an American Agri-Women visit to EPA."

Click Here To Watch The Video

TO THE STATES …

In Michigan, the Detroit News reports that Pruitt said that the closing of regional EPA offices is pure legend. "The administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency said Thursday that reports that its Great Lakes regional office in Chicago would permanently close are 'pure legend.' 'There is no consideration presently with respect to any regional offices about moving them to one location or another. I'm not sure where that came from,' Administrator Scott Pruitt told a House Appropriations subcommittee."

In Ohio, the Cleveland Plain Dealer reports that Pruitt wants to clean-up the Great Lakes. *"Pruitt told Joyce the EPA will acknowledge priorities that Congress had outlined in past legislation, and will work 'as partners and stakeholders' with states on environmental concerns. 'We recognize the importance of the Great Lakes,' said Pruitt. 'We will work with Congress to ensure that those objectives are attained.'"*

Additionally, the Plain Dealer reports that Pruitt reaffirmed the EPA's commitment to cleaning up the Black River in Lorain. "[Pruitt] assured [Rep. Kaptur] that budget cuts the agency requested would not affect existing contracts for cleanup along the Black River in Lorain."

In New York, the Buffalo News reports that Pruitt and the EPA are making progress at cleaning-up chemicals that are stockpiled at Tonawanda warehouse. "Seven months ago, state and federal authorities seized control of a Town of Tonawanda chemical supplier allegedly stockpiling thousands of tons of chemicals. Tuesday, the scene was safe enough for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to offer reporters a safety-vest and hard-hat behind-the-scenes peek of the cleanup."

In Kansas, the High Plains Journal reports that the National Cattlemen's Beef Association and Public Lands Council supports the nomination of Susan Bodine. "The National Cattlemen's Beef Association and the Public Lands Council recently sent a letter to U.S. Sens. John Barrasso (R-WY) and Thomas Carper (D-DE) urging them to support the nomination of Susan Bodine to be the

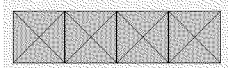
Environmental Protection Agency's assistant administrator for the Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance. … 'Bodine has impeccable credentials with 29 years of environmental law and policy experience garnered from leadership positions in the federal government and private sector,' said NCBA President Craig Uden and PLC President David Eliason in the joint letter."

In Wisconsin, WBAY-TV reports that Pruitt and the EPA are cleaning-up Green Bay. "Green Bay's redevelopment efforts are getting a big boost with a grant from the Environmental Protection Agency."

Click Here To Watch The Video

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From: POLITICO Pro Energy Whiteboard
Sent: Thur 6/1/2017 9:30:23 PM
Subject: Washington, California, New York band together to form climate alliance

By Eric Wolff

06/01/2017 05:27 PM EDT

In the wake of President Donald Trump's announcement he will pull the U.S. out of the Paris climate agreement, the governors of California, Washington and New York have agreed to form an alliance aimed at meeting the U.S. climate goals.

The new coalition, called the United States Climate Alliance, will serve as a way for states interested in dealing with climate change to coordinate, according to a press release. The three states make up about a fifth of U.S. population and GDP. They also produced 11 percent of U.S. emissions in 2014, according to the Energy Information Administration.

"If the President is going to be AWOL in this profoundly important human endeavor, then California and other states will step up," Gov. Jerry Brown said in a statement.

Climate warriors have turned their attention to states, cities and businesses to take up carbon reduction slack where the federal government has left off.

To view online:
https://www.politicopro.com/energy/whiteboard/2017/06/washington-california-ny-band-together-to-form-climate-alliance-088530

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Sent: Thur 6/8/2017 11:22:37 PM
Subject: June 08 -- Energy and Climate Report

Energy and Climate Report

June 08, 2017 - Number 110

News

Air Pollution
Poor Data, Lax Enforcement Mar EPA's Oversight of Benzene Rule
Benzene emissions from gasoline may be higher than the EPA estimates because poor data quality and inconsistent enforcement are hampering the agency's efforts, the inspector general said.

Budget
Lawmakers Doubtful About Interior Spending Cut Proposals
The Trump administration goal of a balanced federal budget within 10 years contributed to many of the proposed spending cuts for Interior Department programs, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke told House lawmakers June 8.

EPA
EPA Failed to Update Science Advisory Board Policies, GAO Says
The Environmental Protection Agency failed to adequately update policies for diversifying the scientists who advise the agency on policy matters, the U.S. Government Accountability Office said in a report on June 8. The GAO found that the agency did not adequately develop an updated policy statement on its Science Advisory Board, a group of scientific experts that advise the agency. The Federal Advisory Commission Act requires the EPA to establish guidelines for the advisory board.

Energy
China's Clean Energy Ambition Floats on Abandoned Coal Mine
China's ambitions to dominate new energy technologies are unfolding at the site of an abandoned coal mine about 300 miles northwest of Shanghai.

Energy
India's Answer to Trump on Climate Is Nuclear Power
Business has been slow at a Larsen & Toubro Ltd. factory in western India that makes parts for nuclear power plants. The Mumbai-based construction company opened the plant in 2012, hoping to profit from government plans to build more reactors in a country where more than 200 million people lack access to electricity. But most of the projects have gone nowhere, and L&T's facility in Hazira is running at one-fifth of capacity. "That's not the best use of resources," ...

Energy
Nuclear Subsidies Slow to Catch on as Opposition Steps Up

Almost a year after New York became the first state to approve subsidies for nuclear reactors threatened with closure, efforts to replicate the model elsewhere are proving a tough sell.

Energy

U.S., China Discuss American Liquid Natural Gas Exports

Energy Secretary Rick Perry advanced the prospect of expanding American liquid natural gas (LNG) exports to China during a June 8 meeting with Executive Vice Premier Zhang Gaoli in Beijing.

Renewable Energy

German Renewables Peak as Country Bolsters Paris Commitment

Germany's latest wind and solar power record is unlikely to be the last as the nation deepens its commitment to a low-carbon economy in the face of U.S. President Donald Trump's decision to quit the Paris climate accord.

Renewable Energy

Hydro Overpowers Energy Needs in China

Unused energy from hydropower facilities in the southwest China provinces of Yunnan and Sichuan in 2016 was more than the amount needed to power Hebei, the main province surrounding Beijing, for a month, raising questions about the need for future projects.

Renewable Energy

U.K. Seen Headed for Subsidy Free Power from Offshore Wind Farms

Britain may soon join Germany in harvesting subsidy-free electricity from offshore wind farms, giving government ministers new options in securing power supplies that don't pollute.

Vehicle Fuels

Biofuel Revamp Debate Powers Up, Includes Higher Ethanol Blends

Long-awaited efforts to modify biofuel policy are entering the limelight across Capitol Hill.

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Energy and Climate Report

To: Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
From: InsideEPA.com
Sent: Mon 11/13/2017 11:49:51 AM
Subject: The Morning Headlines from InsideEPA.com -- November 13, 2017

TRUMP'S EPA: Agency at a crossroads -- Complete coverage

November 13, 2017

Latest News

Wehrum Could Revert To EPA NAAQS Process With Earlier Political Input

Newly confirmed EPA Office of Air & Radiation (OAR) chief William Wehrum could now undo an Obama-era policy memo on ambient air standard reviews and reinstate a process from Wehrum's prior tenure at EPA during the George W. Bush administration that gave political leadership more control earlier in the reviews, sources say.

Environmentalists Fear EPA Will Exempt All AFOs From Emissions Reports

Environmentalists are warning a federal appeals court that EPA is seeking to create a legal loophole to essentially exempt all animal feeding operations (AFOs) from certain federal hazardous substance reporting requirements, which would partially nullify an April ruling from the court that requires thousands of smaller AFOs to report for the first time.

EAB Weighs Limits On EPA Power To Soften Obama-Era Nutrient Permits

EPA's Environmental Appeals Board (EAB) is weighing a new case over the agency's bid to soften nutrient limits in a wastewater treatment plant's Clean Water Act (CWA) discharge permit, potentially testing the limits of the Trump administration's ability to loosen permits crafted by its predecessors despite the law's “anti-backsliding” provisions.

New Jersey Eyes DOJ's Input On EPCRA Defense Against Data Disclosure

New Jersey officials say the Department of Justice's (DOJ) input may be warranted after their criticism of an EPA-administered reporting law in the state's defense against environmentalist and labor groups' lawsuit seeking release of industrial facility data, in a case that could have broad implications for public disclosure of facility data.

EPA Fights 'Constructive Submission' Theory Seeking To Force TMDL

EPA is urging a federal district court to reject environmentalists' “constructive submission” theory that the lack of a state-crafted waterbody cleanup plan for the

Columbia and Snake rivers in Washington and Oregon means the states have abandoned efforts to craft a plan and that the agency must now impose its own plan on them.

Daily Feed

Senate Democrats ask GAO to review new EPA advisors policy

Democratic Senators are asking the Government Accountability Office to expand its probe of EPA's new policies for choosing members of its advisory committees.

EPA developing nutrients 'willingness to pay' survey

EPA is taking comment on its plan to survey the public's willingness to pay for nutrient controls that would improve the quality of recreational waters coastal New England.

EDF outlines issues for TSCA inventory rule suit

Environmentalists outline issues they plane to raise in litigation challenging EPA's inventory reset rule establishing universe of existing chemicals for review under the new toxics law.

Federal prosecutors subpoena Icahn RFS data

Federal prosecutors in New York have subpoenaed documents pertaining to billionaire Carl Icahn's role in possible manipulation of biofuels markets, adding to pressure on the former presidential adviser over the issue.

Ewire: Major climate report doesn't change EPA's CPP plans

In today's news roundup: The Trump administration's major climate science report is not altering EPA's plan to repeal the Clean Power Plan or nominees' views on the issue.

Biofuels producers urge Trump to increase cellulosic RFS targets

As a Nov. 30 deadline for issuance of the final 2018 RFS approaches, advanced biofuels interests are trying to boost their fuel volumes, while the oil sector seeks a reduced RFS.

Read all the latest EPA news, analysis and documents →

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To: Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
From: Anna Palmer and Jake Sherman
Sent: Tue 5/30/2017 10:36:04 AM
Subject: POLITICO Playbook, presented by Morgan Stanley: INSIDE TRUMP's intelligence consumption, management style -- SPOTTED: Corey Lewandowski at Peet's Coffee across from W.H. -- PENCE to hit campaign trail -- SHOCK: Congress in a knot over the debt ceiling

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Today's PLAYBOOK presented by Morgan Stanley
05/30/2017 06:32 AM EDT

By JAKE SHERMAN (sherman@politico.com; @JakeSherman) and ANNA PALMER (anna@politico.com; @apalmerdc) with DANIEL LIPPMAN (daniel@politico.com; @dlippman)

Driving the Day

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Good Tuesday morning. We hope you are enjoying your Memorial Day week. Congress is out, and we're seeing a lot of out-of-office messages pop up. But we expect President Donald Trump's decision this week on the Paris climate accords. In the last few days, Trump administration officials have publicly and privately predicted the president is open to remaining a part of the climate deal, will absolutely pull out of the agreement and will attempt to renegotiate the accord.

THERE IS NOT MUCH on President Donald Trump's public schedule today -- just lunch with Vice President Mike Pence at 12:30 p.m. Vietnamese Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc is slated to meet with President Donald Trump Wednesday at the White House. Vietnam Airlines flight number 1 -- a Boeing 787 -- is scheduled to land at Andrews Air Force Base today at 3:05 p.m. from New York. The plane is scheduled to leave Andrews at 9:10 p.m. Wednesday for Frankfurt. http://bit.ly/2riGeVD

SPOTTED -- COREY LEWANDOWSKI on Memorial Day at Peet's Coffee across from the White House, "suitcase in hand," per our tipster.

AND THERE'S MORE ...

MATT ROSENBERG, MARK MAZZETTI and **MAGGIE HABERMAN** on **NYT, A1-- "Investigation Turns to Kushner's Motives in Meeting With a Putin Ally":** "Jared Kushner, the president's son-in-law and senior adviser, was looking for a direct line to President Vladimir V. Putin of Russia -- a search that in mid-December found him in a

room with a Russian banker whose financial institution was deeply intertwined with Russian intelligence, and remains under sanction by the United States.

"Federal and congressional investigators are now examining what exactly Mr. Kushner and the Russian banker, Sergey N. Gorkov, wanted from each other. The banker is a close associate of Mr. Putin, but he has not been known to play a diplomatic role for the Russian leader. That has raised questions about why he was meeting with Mr. Kushner at a crucial moment in the presidential transition, according to current and former officials familiar with the investigations." http://nyti.ms/2r6Ak9T

INSIDE THE WEST WING -- WAPO A1, "How President Trump consumes -- or does not consume -- top-secret intelligence," by Phil Rucker and Ashley Parker (print headline: "Serving intelligence to Trump in small bites"): "President Trump consumes classified intelligence like he does most everything else in life: ravenously and impatiently, eager to ingest glinting nuggets but often indifferent to subtleties. Most mornings, often at 10:30, sometimes earlier, Trump sits behind the historic Resolute desk and, with a fresh Diet Coke fizzing and papers piled high, receives top-secret updates on the world's hot spots. The president interrupts his briefers with questions but also with random asides. He asks that the top brass of the intelligence community be present, and he demands brevity.

"As they huddle around the desk, Trump likes to pore over visuals -- maps, charts, pictures and videos, as well as 'killer graphics,' as CIA Director Mike Pompeo phrased it. ... Though career intelligence analysts often take the lead in delivering them, Trump likes his political appointees - Pompeo and [DNI Daniel] Coats - to attend, along with national security adviser H.R. McMaster. Pompeo and Coats, whose offices are in McLean, Va., have had to redesign their daily routines so that they spend many mornings at the White House. Vice President Pence usually attends, while other administration principals join depending on the topic of the day, including Defense Secretary Jim Mattis, Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross and Homeland Security Secretary John F. Kelly. Senior members of the West Wing staff sometimes float in and out of the Oval Office during the briefings. ...

"Jared Kushner ... often observes quietly; he receives his own intelligence briefing earlier in the morning, according to two White House officials. ... Trump also has encouraged his briefers to include as many visual elements as possible. This is a reflection, aides said, of Trump's career as a real estate developer who evaluated blueprints and renderings to visualize what a property eventually would look like. 'Sometimes,' Coats said, 'pictures do say a thousand words.'" http://wapo.st/2sgKNNC

HOW THE PRESIDENT MANAGES - "Snubs and slights are part of the job in Trump's White House," by WaPo's Ashley Parker: "In Trump's White House, aides serve a president who demands absolute loyalty - but who doesn't always offer it in return. Trump prefers a management style in which even compliments can come laced with a bite, and where enduring snubs and belittling jokes, even in public, is part of the job. Allies say the president's quips are simply good-natured teasing, part of an inclusive

strategy meant to make even mid-level staff members feel like family. But others consider Trump's comments pointed reminders to those who work for him that he is in charge - barbs from the boss that keep aides on guard and off kilter, and can corrode staff morale.

"Trump sometimes refers to his 45-year-old chief of staff, Reince Priebus, as 'Reince-y,' a diminutive nickname that some aides and outside rivals recount with gleeful relish. ... The president has described House Speaker Paul D. Ryan (R-Wis.), in theory one of his top allies on Capitol Hill, as a 'Boy Scout' - a dig that the lawmaker joked he chose to take as a compliment even though 'I'm not sure he meant it that way.' ... And during the transition, Trump would make a point of noting that Vice President-elect Mike Pence's crowds paled compared to his, teasing that even his daughter Ivanka and son Eric attracted more attention, said two people familiar with the comments, which they considered demeaning." http://wapo.st/2s94Jm8

-- HOPE HICKS' statement to Ashley: "President Trump has a magnetic personality and exudes positive energy, which is infectious to those around him. He has an unparalleled ability to communicate with people, whether he is speaking to a room of three or an arena of 30,000. He has built great relationships throughout his life and treats everyone with respect. He is brilliant with a great sense of humor ... and an amazing ability to make people feel special and aspire to be more than even they thought possible."

-- @TVietor08: "Hope Hicks does a hilarious impression of North Korean propaganda in this quote to @AshleyRParker" http://bit.ly/2r6stZU

****** **A message from Morgan Stanley:** Morgan Stanley helped E-commerce leader Alibaba Group advance technologies to give rural communities access to goods and services once considered out of reach. Capital creates change. Read the full story at morganstanley.com/alibaba CRC 1221469 06/15 ******

ALEX ISENSTADT SCOOP: PENCE REEMERGING -- "Pence to make campaign push amid GOP concerns over Trump": "Vice President Mike Pence is embarking on a cross-country summer campaign tour amid rising fears that the GOP, reeling from a barrage of Trump-fueled controversies, is headed for a midterm election disaster. Pence is mapping out a schedule that will take him through several Midwestern battlegrounds and to traditionally conservative southern states like Georgia, where an unexpectedly competitive June special election runoff is alarming party strategists. The vice president will also attend a series of Republican Party events that will draw major donors and power-brokers, where talk about 2018 is certain to be front-and-center.

"The push comes at a time of growing consternation among senior Republicans who say the White House has given them little direction on midterm planning. Many complain that they do not even know who to contact about 2018 in an administration that has been consumed by chaos. 'He has an appetite to fight so he's going to get out there and fight on the president's behalf,' said Nick Ayers, a longtime Pence strategist. At the same time, the vice president's increased electoral activity has stoked speculation that

Pence is positioning himself for a post-Trump future in the party, something his advisers strenuously deny." http://politi.co/2qBpsNH

2018 WATCH -- NYT A16, "'Narrowcast' Trump? Republicans Seek Formula to Keep House Majority," by Jeremy Peters in Roswell, Georgia: "In the northern suburbs of Atlanta, where what is likely to be the most expensive House campaign in history is being waged, a band of conservative advocacy groups is grappling with a question that may decide whether the Republican Party keeps its House majority after 2018: Do you run with President Trump or against him? Somehow, the groups are discovering, they will have to do both. ...

"The trick for Republicans and their allied outside groups is figuring out how to avoid conspicuously embracing the president without alienating conservative voters who would view any overt rebuff as a betrayal. 'That is the question we are trying to answer right now,' said Ralph Reed, whose Faith and Freedom Coalition is based in Georgia and is involved in the special election. As for Mr. Trump, Mr. Reed added: 'I don't think you really look to broadcast him. You narrowcast him.'" http://nyti.ms/2quX3O0

JUST POSTED -- STEPHEN MILLER PROFILE - WILLIAM D. COHAN in Vanity Fair's summer issue, "How Stephen Miller Rode White Rage from Duke's Campus to Trump's West Wing": "Despite Miller's penchant for outrageous provocation, his family was very much like others in Santa Monica. His mother, Miriam, from Johnstown, Pennsylvania, came from a well-known Jewish family that had made a fortune in retailing. His father, Michael, a Stanford graduate, was a lawyer and real-estate mini-mogul. These days, the Millers together own Cordary Inc., a real-estate investment company ... [which] owns and manages three multi-family residential 'communities' in the Los Angeles area comprised of 471 rental units.

"Ironically, the family would not have made it to the United States had someone like Stephen Miller been in the White House a century ago. Facing religious persecution, Miriam's family -- the Glossers -- fled Belarus, arriving in New York in 1903. 'Imagine living in a place where armed Cossacks ride through the streets, looking to cripple or kill you,' wrote Robert Jeschonek, in 'Long Live Glosser's,' a 2014 book about the family. ... One former Duke student remembers Miller's behavior in class more than she does his political views. In a freshman history course about the American Revolution, she recalls, 'Just right away, he'd just walk in, put his head down, and go to sleep.' After giving Miller a few good-natured warnings, the professor kicked him out. 'He's got that sleepy-eyed, sloe-eyed look, but he's just saying 'F*** you' to the world,' she says." http://bit.ly/2r6MfVd

COMING ATTRACTIONS -- "Debt fight blindsides Congress," by Burgess Everett and Rachael Bade: "President Donald Trump's top economic aides are urging Capitol Hill leaders to raise the debt ceiling by the end of July. And Congress is totally unprepared to do so. Lawmakers in both parties thought they'd have until the fall to act, and had planned to roll the always-difficult vote into a broader spending package that could be more easily swallowed. That strategy may now have to be tossed aside with

the debt limit deadline approaching faster than expected.

"The White House request raises the prospect of a bruising fight over the debt limit -- not just between Republicans and Democrats but within both parties. The GOP is torn over whether to combine spending cuts with the debt ceiling lift, and Senate Democrats are already signaling they may push for their own concessions since their votes are going to be needed to avoid a devastating government default. The request will also scramble the congressional calendar. The GOP is currently embroiled in an effort to repeal Obamacare and rewrite the tax code, two massive legislative items that are expected to suck up time and energy all summer." http://politi.co/2rQ2GGq

FOR YOUR RADAR -- "North Korea warns of 'bigger gift package' for U.S. after latest test," by Reuters' Ju-min Park and Jack Kim in Seoul: "North Korean leader Kim Jong Un supervised the test of a new ballistic missile controlled by a precision guidance system and ordered the development of more powerful strategic weapons, the North's official KCNA news agency reported on Tuesday. The missile launched on Monday was equipped with an advanced automated pre-launch sequence compared with previous versions of the 'Hwasong' rockets, North Korea's name for its Scud-class missiles, KCNA said. That indicated the North had launched a modified Scud-class missile, as South Korea's military has said." http://reut.rs/2sgB2yW

-- "Former Panamanian dictator Manuel Noriega dies at 83," by AP's Juan Zamorano and Kathia Martinez in Panama City: "Former Panamanian dictator Manuel Noriega, a onetime U.S. ally who was ousted as Panama's dictator by an American invasion in 1989, died late Monday at age 83. Panamanian President Juan Carlos Varela wrote in his Twitter account that 'the death of Manuel A. Noriega closes a chapter in our history.' Varela added, 'His daughters and his relatives deserve to mourn in peace.' Noriega ruled with an iron fist, ordering the deaths of those who opposed him and maintaining a murky, close and conflictive relationship with the United States." http://apne.ws/2qBlKUl

THE JUICE...

-- **FIRST IN PLAYBOOK: JOHN HEILEMANN** is now a national affairs analyst for NBC News and MSNBC.

-- OBAMA ALUMNI: FRANK BENENATI is starting a new job in Chicago at United Airlines as director of corporate communications. He previously served as the director of public affairs for the EPA and also was as a White House spokesperson and assistant press secretary.

THE N.Y. POST and **N.Y. DAILY NEWS** have the same front page today. A mugshot photo of Tiger Woods with the headline "DUI OF THE TIGER." ***The Post*** http://nyp.st/2algwpl ... ***The Daily News*** http://bit.ly/2sgRGhO

Playbook Reads

[redacted]

PHOTO DU JOUR: Brittany Jacobs, left, watches as her 6-year-old son Christian Jacobs talks with President Donald Trump at Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, Va., on May 29. Jacobs' father, Marine Sgt. Christopher Jacobs, was killed in 2011. | Evan Vucci/AP Photo

REP. DEVIN NUNES (R-CALIF.) SPEAKS , via Sarah Wire in the L.A. Times: "Embattled House Select Intelligence Committee Chairman Devin Nunes told hundreds of local Republicans at a recent private dinner fundraiser that congressional investigations into Russia's interference in the 2016 election are about Democrats trying to justify Hillary Clinton's loss.

"'The Democrats don't want an investigation on Russia. They want an independent commission. Why do they want an independent commission? Because they want to continue the narrative that Vladimir Putin and Donald Trump are best friends, and that's the reason that he won, because Hillary Clinton would have never lost on her own; it had to be someone else's fault,' Nunes told Republicans at the $75-per-plate Tulare County Lincoln Dinner on April 7. His remarks were recorded on video and provided to The Times.

"'They have tried to destroy this Russia investigation, they've never been serious about it, and one of the great things now that I've stepped aside from this Russia investigation, I can actually say what I want to say. I know that there's probably media in here, you can write it but just try to get it right when you do,' he said." http://lat.ms/2riC4gt

BEYOND THE BELTWAY -- "Threats of violence, unfinished business, rowdy protesters mark end of tumultuous legislative session," by Dallas Morning News' Brandi Grissom, Robert T. Garrett, Lauren McGaughy and James Barragan in Austin: "Lawmakers threatened to shoot and beat one another up on the final day of a legislative session beset by angry fights and emotional outbursts that often got in the way of completing their agenda. 'Our nerves are frayed. It's the last day of a long session,' said Rep. Pat Fallon, R-Frisco. 'We just want to go home.' ...

"Reps. Ramon Romero and Cesar Blanco said Rep. Matt Rinaldi, a staunchly conservative Republican from Irving and ardent supporter of the anti-immigration legislation, approached them. Rinaldi told them he had called U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement to report the protesters, many of whom were Hispanic. The Democrats were infuriated. A shoving match and threats of violence ensued. Rinaldi said Rep. Poncho Nevarez, a Democrat from Eagle Pass, threatened to 'get me on the way to my car.' Rep. Justin Rodriguez, D-San Antonio, said he heard Rinaldi warn Nevarez that he would 'put a bullet in your head.'

"Rinaldi issued a statement that said he threatened to shoot Nevarez in self-defense only after the Democrat threatened him. The Republican said he was under Department

of Public Safety protection following the kerfuffle." http://bit.ly/2rfnYe5

-- "Cities join call for impeachment," by POLITICO Illinois Playbook's Natasha Korecki: "Congress may not be ready to launch impeachment proceedings against Donald Trump, but a growing number of cities and towns are trying to push members in that direction. Brookline, Mass., became the 10th and latest local government Thursday to pass a resolution calling for impeachment, a step designed to add pressure on the state's congressmen to launch a formal investigation that could ultimately lead to the president's removal from office." http://politi.co/2rzT1E2

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THE OPPOSITION -- "Since election, yoga rises off the mat to take on Donald Trump," by USA Today's Paul Singer: https://usat.ly/2sgzXqS

OFF MESSAGE PODCAST: Sen. Ben Sasse joins Isaac Dovere on the latest episode of POLITICO's Off Message podcast talking about how President Donald Trump comes to the presidency from the world of reality TV. "And I have lots of anxiety about whether or not that kind of world is really what we want for our kids," the Nebraska Republican senator said. ***Listen and subscribe*** http://apple.co/2nEa7y0

-- "Is Trump an 'adult'? Ben Sasse won't say," by Isaac Dovere: http://politi.co/2rivyGC

REMEMBERING FRANK DEFORD - NYT's Daniel Victor: "Frank Deford, who mined the sports world for human stories and told them with literary grace over six decades in Sports Illustrated, a shelf of books and many years of radio and television commentary, died on Sunday at his home in Key West, Fla. He was 78. ... Mr. Deford retired from NPR's "Morning Edition" on May 3, signing off with what the radio network said was his 1,656th weekly commentary since 1980. He also appeared on HBO's 'Real Sports With Bryant Gumbel' for 22 years and wrote for Sports Illustrated for more than 30 years. At Sports Illustrated, he became a leader in a form of literary sports journalism nurtured by its managing editor, André Laguerre, who recruited him as one of a blue-ribbon roster of writers that included Mark Kram, Dan Jenkins and Roy Blount Jr." http://nyti.ms/2riAUSq

VALLEY TALK -- "Court Documents Shed Light on Theranos Board's Response to

Crisis: Two former directors didn't follow up on allegations that the blood-testing firm was relying on standard technology," by WSJ's Christopher Weaver: "Two former Theranos Inc. directors said they didn't follow up on public allegations that the Silicon Valley blood-testing firm was relying on standard technology rather than its much-hyped proprietary device for most tests, according to newly released court documents.

"In depositions, the highly decorated former directors -- former U.S. Navy Adm. Gary Roughead and former U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz -- who were board members when concerns of employees and regulators became public-said they didn't question Theranos founder Elizabeth Holmes about the matter." http://on.wsj.com/2r6XWes

MEDIAWATCH -- "Tronc plan to buy Sun-Times may face competition," by Natasha Korecki: "At least two outside parties have shown interest in buying the Chicago Sun-Times, possibly scuttling what was thought to be a done deal with the owner of the Chicago Tribune, a newspaper guild representative told POLITICO. David Roeder, a consultant with the Chicago News Guild, which represents the newsrooms of the Sun-Times and the Chicago Reader, said that at least two other interested groups of buyers have reached out to the guild and expressed an interest in buying the news organization." http://politi.co/2rzu4bS

--TEDDY SCHLEIFER to Recode -- per Joe Pompeo's Morning Media: "Recode has nabbed Teddy Schleifer from CNN, where he has been a Washington-based politics and campaign finance reporter. At Recode, Schleifer will be a senior editor based in San Francisco."

Playbookers

TRANSITIONS -- FIRST IN PLAYBOOK: Theo LeCompte, former deputy chief of staff at the Commerce Department and COO at the 2012 Democratic National Convention, is joining MemoryWell as COO. Former TIME correspondent and current contributor Jay Newton-Small started the organization to use a network of freelance journalists to write "life stories" for patients entering long term care to help improve their care.

WEEKEND WEDDINGS -- Warren Bass, senior editor of the Wall Street Journal's Review section, was married Sunday to **Jenna Slutsky,** a psychologist at Columbia University Medical Center, at Wainwright House in Rye, N.Y. The couple met on the subway going from Brooklyn to the Upper West Side. The waterside ceremony was performed by Rabbi Aaron Panken, the president of Hebrew Union College, and Rabbi Angela Buchdahl of New York's Central Synagogue. **SPOTTED:** Susan Rice and Ian Cameron, Adam Entous, Emily Bazelon, Brooke Anderson, David Greenberg and Suzanne Nossel, Salman and Cat Ahmed, Andrew Weiss and Kate Julian, Jen Simon, Ken Baer and Caron Gremont, Mieke Eoyang, Krishanti Vignarajah and Collin O'Mara, Grant Harris and Tara Bahrampour.

ANOTHER SCHUMER MARRIAGE! -- Meghan Taira, legislative director for Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, and **Gerry Petrella,** policy director for Leader Schumer, were married on Monday by Danny Akaka Jr. at the Sunset Ranch on the north shore of Oahu in front of friends and family from Hawaii, Long Island, Washington and beyond. Pool report: "The bride wore her mother's beautiful dress, the groom wore his finest Tommy Bahama number as the crowd danced the night away to songs including 'Sweet Child Of Mine,' the karaoke song that first brought the couple together. The ladies wore local leis, the men kukui necklaces and everyone brought their finest aloha spirit. POG juice and rum flowed and laughter roared late into the night."

-- Joel Mowbray, founder of Fourth Factor Consulting, a strategic consulting firm that works with mostly Silicon Valley tech companies, on Sunday married **Valeria Bystritskaia,** who was Miss Germany 2011 and competed in Miss Universe. Fun facts: she speaks five languages and shares the same immigration attorney as Melania Trump, Michael Wildes. Joel is a former fellow at the Foundation for the Defense of Democracies. The wedding was in Aspen: all the guests stayed at the St. Regis and the ceremony was outdoors with a chuppah in the grass and the trees and mountains as the backdrop. Festivities kicked off Friday night with a Shabbat dinner at Chabad in Aspen. On Saturday, after Shabbat, guests enjoyed scotch and cigars. The couple met in synagogue at Kiddush last May, the first Shabbat after Passover. He went up to go talk to her and asked her where she was from (her favorite question): She replied: "From everywhere around the world" and promptly walked away. ***Pics by Ross Daniels Photography*** http://bit.ly/2qvhKcH ... http://bit.ly/2rx6sVw ... http://bit.ly/2s9wbAz

SPOTTED: Ted and Heidi Cruz, Ed and Marie Royce, David Panton, Larry Mizel, Martin and Rivka Rapaport, their children Ezi and Penina, Sander and Tracy Gerber, Eric and Yvette Edidin, Arie Lipnick, Elliott Broidy, Adam Ross, David Panton, Noah Pollak, Martin Rapaport, Travis Allen, David and Donna Keene, Rich Miniter, Rex Elsass, Reid Spitz, David and Hila Brog, wedding planner Jason Burns.

--Sabrina Singh, deputy comms director for American Bridge, and **Mike Smith,** DCCC national finance director, got married in Newport Beach, at the hotel Pelican Hill. The officiant was Mike's sister Jaime Smith. DCCC, DGA, and HFA families were well represented in the wedding party. The best man was Tom Mintz and groomsmen included Jonathan Levy, Haley Simmons, and Tanner Ahern. Her bridesmaids/maids of honor included Devon MacLaughlin, Sarah Rothschild, Lauren Wolman, and Tori Murphy. They met at the DCCC in 2011.

WELCOME TO THE WORLD -- CNN correspondent **Sunlen Serfaty** and husband **Alexis Serfaty,** VP and chief of staff at the U.S.-U.A.E. Business Council, email friends and family: "Sunlen and I are overjoyed to welcome to the world, Roosevelt Jolie Serfaty! Miss Serfaty arrived on Sunday evening at 5:23 pm, weighing 8 pounds and one ounce -- twenty one inches long, with beautiful, big, and curious eyes. Her name carries special meaning for us - Roosevelt, 'Field of Roses' in honor of Rose Park, where we first met and were married. Mom and baby are well and Roosevelt can't wait

to meet everyone!" ***Pic*** http://politi.co/2qBfSdN

-- Josh Kraushaar, political editor at National Journal, and **Hannah Kraushaar**, program manager at National Defense University, have welcomed Avi Ethan Kraushaar, who was born on Wednesday. ***Pic with big sister Shana*** http://politi.co/2rfavTa

BIRTHDAY OF THE DAY: former DCCC Chairman/Congressman **Steve Israel** (D-N.Y.), now chairman of the Global Institute at Long Island University, is 59. How he's celebrating: "Once I left Congress, I went from the House to a new house near Theodore Roosevelt's home on Long Island. I'll be celebrating there, poolside, with my family and dog, Theo." Read his Playbook Plus Q&A: http://politi.co/2rzMl97

BIRTHDAYS: Michelle Cottle, contributing editor at The Atlantic and a TNR alum ... Jenna Lee, co-host of FOX News' "Happening Now" (hat tip: James Rosen) ... Kim Kingsley ... Miryam Lipper, press secretary for Sen. Tim Kaine and alum of HFA and DNC, who celebrated last night at a small Memorial Day dinner with HFA and DNC friends (h/ts Ian Sams and Tyrone Gayle) ... Frank Thorp, producer and off-air reporter covering Congress for NBC ... Holly Page (h/ts Tammy, Kelley, Jacquie and Jon) ... CAA's Alan Berger ... Ashe Schow, reporter at Real Clear Investigations ... Eric Levenson, a digital writer at CNN (h/t Sarah Jorgensen) ... Hannah Cooper, a staff assistant for Rep. Anthony Brown (D-Md.), is 23 (h/t Sean Gogolin) ... Shawnda Westly ... WSJ alum Gautham Nagesh, founder and editor of Stiff Jab, the premier fight site on Tumblr ... Blake Williams ... Larry Silverstein is 86 (h/t Jewish Insider) ...

... Josh Gatlin is 41 ... Lisa Stark, broadcast correspondent at Education Week and the PBS NewsHour who is an ABC News and Al Jazeera America alum ... Joe Williams ... Reema Dodin, floor director for Sen. Dick Durbin, the Democratic Whip ... Marshall Project managing editor Kirsten Danis ... PhRMA's Nicole Longo ... Politico's Pratyusha Sankuratri ... Ashley Bender, associate at Arnold & Porter (h/t Trey Herr) ... Thomas Brown Dowd, who was a second lieutenant in the U.S. Marine Corps and was KIA in Vietnam in 1967, would have been 73 (h/t best friend Fred Graefe) ... Hunter Williams of Covington & Burling ... Brian Infante, associate at Portfolio Advisors ... Politico Europe's Fiona Maxwell ... Jorna Taylor ... Lauren Nevin ... Nicholas Ballasy ... Sheila Ali-Oston ... Doug Grane, co-founder and partner at PE and angel investing firm St. Andrews Partners ... Greg Moore ... Thomas Cluderay ... Joe Cowie ... Scott Froyen ... Stephanie Bosh ... Chris Gowen (h/ts Teresa Vilmain) ... Gary Lee ... Sheila Ali-Oston ... Wynonna Judd is 53 ... Cee Lo Green is 43 (h/ts AP)

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To: Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
From: Morning Score
Sent: Mon 6/19/2017 2:07:43 PM
Subject: POLITICO's Morning Score: One more day: Georgia special election comes to nail-biting finish — DeVos becomes fundraising fodder for Democrats — RNC, DCCC record big May cash hauls

By Daniel Strauss | 06/19/2017 10:00 AM EDT

With Scott Bland

The following newsletter is an abridged version of Campaign Pro's Morning Score. For an earlier morning read on exponentially more races - and for a more comprehensive aggregation of the day's most important campaign news - sign up for Campaign Pro today. (http://www.politicopro.com/proinfo)

GEORGIA ON OUR MINDS - "Georgia special election hurtles toward nail-biting finish," by POLITICO's Steve Shepard: "As the most expensive House race in history rushes toward the finish line Tuesday, the latest public polls are unanimous: The Georgia special election between Democrat Jon Ossoff and Republican Karen Handel is too close to call ... The tight polling has both parties - which have each made eight-figure investments in the race - expecting a nail-biter Tuesday night. The current state of play: Of the six public polls conducted in June, Ossoff leads in five of them - and hits the 50-percent mark in each of the five - with the fifth showing a tie. But Ossoff's lead is far from safe. Outside of an early June Atlanta Journal Constitution poll showing Ossoff ahead by 7 points, the Democrat's lead is within the margin of error in each of the polls showing him ahead." **Read more**.

- BY THE NUMBERS - "Early-vote turnout soars in Georgia special election," by Campaign Pro's Scott Bland: "Early voting in Georgia's special House election closed Friday evening with over 140,000 ballots cast, with overall turnout looking likely to rise ... The early voters in the second round include over 36,000 people who did not participate in April, according to data from the Georgia secretary of state's office. That includes past voters who stayed home as well as newly registered voters who added their names to the rolls in Georgia's 6th District after the primary ... Handel and the GOP have focused on approximately 35,000 voters who cast GOP ballots in Georgia's 2016 presidential primary but did not vote on April 18. Democrats have fewer outstanding base votes to chase, with about 11,000 2016 presidential primary voters in the district who didn't cast ballots in April. Ossoff's campaign is also seeking support from thousands of newly registered voters and some independents who are not regular voters." **Read more**.

- "A pro-Trump group is using Obama's voice out of context in radio ad for Georgia's special election," by CNN's Andrew Kaczynski: "An outside group that supports President Donald Trump is running a radio ad in Atlanta ahead of Georgia's special election Tuesday that takes the voice of former President Barack Obama out of context to make the argument that Democrats take black voters for granted. Great America Alliance, a pro-Trump non-profit group that previously ran ads attacking former FBI director James Comey during his testimony, is running an ad that quotes Obama narrating his autobiographical book "Dreams From My Father." The ad, however, does not mention that in the selected passage, Obama is actually

quoting someone else who is speaking about the black community and Chicago politics before the early 1980s." Read more.

- "High-Stakes Referendum on Trump Takes Shape in a Georgia Special Election," by The New York Times' Jonathan Martin and Alexander Burns: " Republicans, weighed down by Mr. Trump's growing unpopularity, must demonstrate they can separate themselves from the president enough to hold suburban districts that only now are becoming battlegrounds. And Democrats, facing a restive base hungry for victory after disappointing losses in Montana and Kansas, are under pressure to show they can notch something more than a moral victory in the sort of affluent seat they will need in order to take back the House majority. ... Among the Democrats likely to [soon] announce campaigns in conservative-leaning districts, according to party strategists, are Matt Longjohn, a physician who is the Y.M.C.A.'s national health officer, against Representative Fred Upton of Michigan; Brendan Kelly, the St. Clair County, Ill., state's attorney, against Representative Mike Bost; and Nancy Soderberg, a former ambassador, against Representative Ron DeSantis of Florida. Elissa Slotkin, a former Defense Department official, is moving toward a campaign against Representative Mike Bishop of Michigan. ... [I]n California, Gil Cisneros, a Navy veteran who won $266 million in the lottery, has been meeting with strategists about a challenge to Representative Ed Royce, according to Democrats familiar with his preparations." **Full story.**

- "The Dems' new midterm challenge: Replicate Ossoff's success," by McClatchy's Alex Roarty: "... Mimicking Ossoff's approach might not be so easy. Already, Democrats are eyeing a constellation of primaries in key battlegrounds next year, races that could force the eventual nominees to adopt positions and rhetoric that leave them more vulnerable in a general election. At least in districts like Georgia's 6th, the dynamic could complicate the party's path to victory in competitive races. 'There will be many primaries this cycle because Democrats are energized by opposition to Trump and sense opportunity in his bad poll numbers,' said Ian Russell, a former political director for the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee. 'Candidates will have to carefully calibrate their messaging to make sure they are able to win the primary without alienating general-election voters.'" **Full story.**

ROVE, KOCH ... DEVOS? - "DeVos becomes Democratic digital lightning rod," by Campaign Pro's Maggie Severns: " First it was Karl Rove. Then it was the Koch brothers. Now, Betsy DeVos has taken over as Senate Democrats' top online bogeyman. The education secretary has faded from the national headlines since her contentious confirmation, but anti-DeVos statements, petitions and especially fundraising emails have become a staple of Democratic digital campaigns in 2017. ... 'For a lot of people Betsy DeVos has really come to be a symbol of everything that's wrong with Trump's approach to government,' said Stephanie Grasmick, a partner at the Democratic digital consulting firm Rising Tide Interactive, which counts Donnelly among its clients. DeVos is a prime example of Rising Tide's new use of 'social listening tools,' adopted for this elections cycle, that monitor the social web for trends. The technology is used by corporations but has yet to be fully embraced by political campaigns." Read more.

THE OTHER SPECIAL - Congressional Leadership Fund spends late on SC-05 GOTV: The GOP super PAC is spending $50,000 on robocalls to about 70,000 low- and mid-propensity

Republicans in the special election to replace Mick Mulvaney. The calls backing Republican Ralph Norman began Saturday and continue today.

Days until the 2017 election: 141.

Days until the 2018 election: 505.

Thanks for joining us. You can email tips to the Campaign Pro team at sbland@politico.com, eschneider@politico.com, krobillard@politico.com and dstrauss@politico.com.

You can also follow us on Twitter: @politicoscott, @ec_schneider, @politicokevin and @danielstrauss4.

MAY FUNDRAISING - "RNC announces raising $10.8M in May," by Campaign Pro's Elena Schneider: "The Republican National Committee raised $10.8 million in May, upping its 2017 fundraising total to $61.9 million, the committee said on Friday. ... In May, the RNC spent $10.5 million, finishing with $41.8 million in cash on hand and no debt. The Democratic National Committee hasn't released its totals for May. In April, the DNC brought in $4.7 million and spent $6.4 million. The committee finished April with $8.8 million in the bank. Last week, the DNC announced its new finance director, Emily Mellencamp Smith, a veteran Democratic fundraiser who recently worked with New Hampshire Sen. Maggie Hassan in 2016." **Full story.**

- The DCCC raised over $9.3 million in May to the NRCC's $6.5 million, Roll Call and the Washington Examiner reported. That leaves the NRCC with $31.2 million on hand, a record at this point in an election cycle, the Examiner wrote, while the DCCC's monthly total in May was also a record. The Roll Call story did not include cash on hand figures for the DCCC. The NRCC's cash on hand is about equal to its last report, meaning the committee was spending everything it raised last month in the lead-up to Montana and Georgia's special elections.

REMATCH TO IGNITION - Ashford announces comeback bid in NE-02: Former Democratic Rep. Brad Ashford announced Sunday morning that he will run for his old seat in 2018, after defeat at the hands of GOP Rep. Don Bacon in a 1-point race last year. "My work is not done," Ashford said in a statement. "I see people being hurt by their government and I watch as a partisan divide has torn at our nation when what is needed, more than ever, is leadership without vitriol." Ashford's wife, Ann Ferlic Ashford, had also been considering a campaign. Another Democrat has already jumped in, though: nonprofit executive Kara Eastman, who previously told the Omaha World-Herald she would keep running whether or not Ashford jumped in.

JUST IN CASE - "POLITICO Pro Q&A: Alabama Democratic Senate candidate Doug Jones," by Campaign Pro's Daniel Strauss: "Alabama may be one of the reddest of red states, but at least one Democrat holds out hope that a chaotic Republican primary in the special election for Jeff Sessions' old Senate seat will open up an opportunity.It's a distinct long-shot, though there's nothing wrong with being prepared. That's what former U.S. attorney Doug Jones is trying to do. He also worked as staff counsel for the late Sen. Howell Heflin and plans to use his experience and connections to Alabama Democrats to wage an aggressive Senate campaign.

He is working with veteran Democratic consultant Joe Trippi, pollster Paul Maslin, and digital firm Mothership Strategies on his bid..."Look, we have a primary to win first and we are focusing on the primary. I'm not taking that for granted at all. So I think we generally will have a good idea where people have voted in Democratic primaries and so we're going to spend a lot of time doing that." **Read more.**

SAFE TRAVELS - "[Ohio] State Treasurer's travels in 2016 infused with politics," by the Associated Press' Julie Carr Smyth: "Ohio State Treasurer Josh Mandel submitted a financial disclosure statement that reveals that every work trip he took last year was at least in some part related to politics, including his campaign bid for U.S. Senate. The filing reviewed by The Associated Press includes 23 pages of itemized travel for 2016 totaling more than $75,000, all covered by Mandel's various federal campaign committees. Federal election law allows state officials running for federal office to use federal committee funds for travel only if it has a political component. ... His Senate campaign spokesman Ethan Zorfas said Mandel's official and political travels were merged to protect taxpayers from paying for anything political. 'In an effort to be beyond reproach and always do right by the taxpayers, any travel that includes any political activity we pay for with political funds in order to prevent charging the taxpayers of Ohio for anything that's political,' Zorfas said. 'We're always going to come down on the side of protecting taxpayer dollars.'" **Read more**.

CODA - QUOTE OF THE DAY: "I know some of you out there, some Republicans may even be turned off by our president." - Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue, before "making the case" for Trump and for Karen Handel at a GA-06 rally on Saturday, via The New York Times.

To view online:
http://www.politico.com/tipsheets/morning-score/2017/06/19/one-more-day-georgia-special-election-comes-to-nail-biting-finish-220902

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Sent: Thur 5/25/2017 4:42:53 PM
Subject: DOE No. 2 candidate backs Yucca Mountain

By Darius Dixon

05/25/2017 12:36 PM EDT

President Donald Trump's Deputy Energy secretary nominee Dan Brouillette effectively aired his support for the Yucca Mountain nuclear waste project this morning.

When asked by Nevada Sen. Catherine Cortez Masto whether he was "in favor" of storing high-level nuclear waste at Yucca Mountain, Brouillette said that he was "in favor of following the law."

That's code of the Nuclear Waste Policy Act, and its amendments, which designated Yucca as the nation's sole nuclear waste repository. Trump's DOE budget requests funding to restart the project.

Brouillette agreed with Cortez Masto that science should dictate whether Yucca Mountain is actually opened.

"Obviously, if the science is so definitive as to show that the site is unsafe, I don't think it's in the interest of anyone to dispose of nuclear waste and endanger the lives of Americans anywhere," he said. "But if the science were to show that it is safe, we will be obligated to follow the law."

Still, Brouillette didn't commit to supporting the so-called consent-based siting effort kicked off under former Energy Secretary Ernest Moniz, saying only that "it is important that states have input into the process." Yucca Mountain supporters have largely been skeptical of the consent-based siting work.

WHAT'S NEXT: Murkowski told committee members today that they should expect to vote on the three nominees, along with Deputy Interior Secretary David Bernhardt, shortly after the upcoming week-long Memorial Day recess.

To view online:
https://www.politicopro.com/energy/whiteboard/2017/05/doe-no-2-candidate-backs-yucca-mountain-088307

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Subject: Senate Democrats plan to drop nominations blockade if ACA repeal effort fails

By Seung Min Kim and Burgess Everett

07/25/2017 12:47 PM EDT

Senate Democrats have dragged out confirmations for even the least controversial nominees while the chamber remained mired in the health care debate. But they're pledging to drop their blockade if the GOP's Obamacare repeal effort fails, according to senior Democratic sources.

In recent weeks, the Senate has slowed to a crawl, taking days to process nominees such as a federal judge from Idaho and the second-ranking official at the Pentagon as a protest of sorts against the Republicans' secretive health care drafting process. The GOP also claims that Democrats aren't negotiating on a budget deal, veterans' legislation and FDA fees until the Obamacare debate is over.

But Democrats plan to work with Republicans for a deal on the dozens of nominations lingering on the floor once the GOP's partisan health push ends, according to Democratic senators and aides.

"Mitch McConnell put reconciliation on the table hours after the session started and it has really tainted all of our efforts," Minority Whip Dick Durbin said in an interview. "When he is prepared to return to regular order, I think we are going to have a much more cooperative Senate."

Majority Leader Mitch McConnell delayed the start of August recess partly so the chamber could clear the deck of nominees lingering on the Senate floor, including Christopher Wray to lead the FBI.

McConnell has also teed up a debate over the National Defense Authorization Act to come after the health care bill. The defense measure would be led by John McCain (R-Ariz.), who is traveling back to Washington today after being diagnosed with brain cancer last week.

To view online:
https://www.politicopro.com/transportation/whiteboard/2017/07/senate-democrats-plan-to-drop-nominations-blockade-after-health-debate-091020

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Sent: Mon 5/22/2017 9:46:04 PM
Subject: BREAKING NEWS: Chaffetz postpones Wednesday hearing after speaking with Comey

House Oversight Chairman Jason Chaffetz on Monday said he will postpone a hearing scheduled for Wednesday after speaking with former FBI Director James Comey, who had been invited to testify.

"Spoke with Comey. He wants to speak with Special Counsel prior to public testimony. Hearing Wed postponed. @GOPoversight," Chaffetz tweeted.

Read more: http://www.politico.com/story/2017/05/22/chaffetz-postpones-wednesday-hearing-after-speaking-with-comey-238690

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BLOOMBERG

EPA Chief Pledges to Secure Toxic Sites in Irma's Storm Path

Jennifer Dlouhy
September 7, 2017
https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2017-09-07/epa-chief-pledges-to-secure-toxic-sites-in-irma-s-storm-path

The Trump administration is applying lessons from Hurricane Harvey's drenching of southeast Texas as it secures toxic waste sites in the path of Hurricane Irma, U.S. environmental chief Scott Pruitt said.

The Environmental Protection Agency's main goal is to make sure there are "enough people on the ground" to quickly assess the integrity of at-risk chemical sites and respond to needs as the monster storm moves through, Pruitt said. Technical staff are already working to secure about 80 Superfund sites in Irma's path from Miami to North Carolina, including a former pesticide plant, military base and machine shop.

"Operationally, we've tried to make sure we apply the same type of approach we used in Texas," Pruitt, EPA's administrator, said in an interview Thursday. "Because of the area and the amount of population that's affected in Florida, we're trying to be even more aggressive." ...

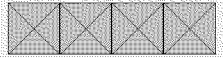
Nearly 200 EPA personnel were deployed in Texas. The agency already has about 77 people working on Irma related efforts and another seven are on the way.

Back-to-back hurricanes hitting the U.S. threaten to strain the federal government's resources, prompting the Senate to pass a $15.25 billion relief bill Thursday, and renewing a debate about the size and scope of federal agencies. The Trump administration has proposed cutting nearly a third of the EPA's budget for the fiscal year that begins Oct. 1 and culling roughly 3,200 employees from the agency's 15,000-member workforce, a process that has already begun as hundreds of workers accept buyouts.

Pruitt stressed the EPA has not been hit by budget reductions yet, as Congress weighs how much to spend on the agency.

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From: InsideEPA/climate
Sent: Thur 6/8/2017 9:16:29 PM
Subject: Today on Climate Beat

June 8, 2017

Today on Climate Beat . . .

. . . we checked the price, reporting that the think tank Resources for the Future is launching a major project to update the social cost of carbon measure, even as the Trump administration follows through with earlier pledges to scrap it by dropping its use from a high-profile environmental review of a coal mining project.

Up on Capitol Hill, House appropriators are preparing potentially sharp questions for EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt over the Trump administration's steep proposed cuts for the agency in fiscal year 2018, in testimony that will be his first since he was confirmed to lead the agency.

In state news, observers are debating the relative importance of recent state and local announcements to support the Paris Agreement, with some calling them an important "statement of commitment," while others say they are "not really news" because those areas were "already enthusiastic" about climate action.

Speaking of states, our news roundup looked at efforts by Canada to partner with individual states on climate change, after the Trump administration has ushered in a dramatic policy reversal on the issue.

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To: Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
From: Anna Palmer Jake Sherman Daniel Lippman
Sent: Mon 11/13/2017 11:25:39 AM
Subject: POLITICO Playbook, presented by Chevron: House Republicans' big TAX REFORM moment -- TRUMP TEASES a Wednesday trade announcement -- MNUCHIN and IVANKA to NJ to sell tax reform -- DEMS smell opportunity in the South -- GREG KELLY gets married

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Today's POLITICO Playbook presented by Chevron

By JAKE SHERMAN (sherman@politico.com; @JakeSherman), ANNA PALMER (anna@politico.com; @apalmerdc), DANIEL LIPPMAN (daniel@politico.com; @dlippman)

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Driving the Day

Good Monday morning. With the Roy Moore controversy continuing to rage, Republicans in Washington are looking to return to more comfortable territory this week -- tax reform. After months of work, the House is expected to pass its overhaul of the tax code while the Senate Finance Committee is slated to pass their own version. The forward progress is welcomed by the White House and GOP operatives who believe passing a tax package before the midterm elections is even more essential to holding their majorities in Congress than it was just a week ago.

BUT, BUT, BUT -- Nothing is over in Washington until it is over. There are still massive differences in the House and Senate bills and it's unclear how Republicans will find a path forward on key issues like state and local tax deductions. So Republicans could find themselves one step forward, two steps back when it comes to final passage.

WHERE THINGS STAND -- "GOP leaders bullish tax bill will pass the House this week," by Rachael Bade: "Republican leaders are confident they have the votes to pass their once-in-a-generation tax reform bill in the House this week. There was little arm-twisting over the weekend, multiple sources close to leadership told POLITICO. And unlike with the Obamacare repeal effort earlier this year, when leaders made final-hour tweaks to win over resistant members, Speaker Paul Ryan's team doesn't intend to make significant changes to the legislation before the vote this time.

"'I think they've made the calculation that they have 218,' Rep. Peter King said in a Saturday phone interview. The New York Republican, currently a 'no' on the bill, said he hasn't heard from leadership in more than two weeks. Fellow New York Rep. Dan Donovan, another GOP opponent of the legislation, said the same. The lack of outreach to GOP holdouts suggests leadership feels good about the level of support in the

conference - though the Republican whip team won't officially count votes until Monday night." http://politi.co/2huWiB8

ABOUT THOSE SALT VOTES -- FIRST IN PLAYBOOK -- AMERICAN ACTION NETWORK is launching a new $1.5 million TV and online ad campaign today to sell the state-specific benefits of tax reform to targeted House districts affected most by the state and local tax deduction. The campaign will air in California, Illinois, New Jersey, New York and Pennsylvania. ***List of districts they're targeting*** http://bit.ly/2huFASP

HAPPENING TODAY - TREASURY SECRETARY STEVEN MNUCHIN, IVANKA TRUMP and **REP. TOM MACARTHUR** (R-N.J.) are participating in a discussion on tax reform this morning in Bayville, New Jersey.

-- REMEMBER: McArthur has been a key voice in pushing Republicans to keep the state and local tax deduction.

IN THE SENATE -- FROM MORNING TAX: "The Finance Committee's website lists more than 350 potential amendments for this week's markup - including the first and most important of all, the as-yet-unreleased changes that would allow the Senate tax bill to meet budget rules that require that a reconciliation measure not add to deficits outside the 10-year budget window. Other interesting items that could be up for discussion: proposals to force more retirement contributions into Roth-style accounts, and to ease the double taxation of corporate income - a pet project of Finance Chairman Orrin Hatch (R-Utah). Democrats are proposing to claw back some of the bill's benefits for the wealthy, in keeping with a broader point that Republicans couldn't find a way to give tax relief to everyone even while working with $1.5 trillion."

A POSTCARD FOR FILING TAXES? -- "GOP Bills Remove Some of the Tax Code's Complexities," by WSJ's Rich Rubin: "The GOP plans would repeal the alternative minimum tax, a parallel tax system affecting more than four million households. The House bill would consolidate a tangle of tax breaks for higher education. Both plans would remove -- temporarily -- thorny depreciation rules. Narrow deductions for tax-preparation fees, teachers' out-of-pocket expenses and moving costs would vanish under the House plan, removing lines from tax forms and pages from Internal Revenue Service publications.

"The full House and a Senate committee are each expected to vote this week on the competing plans, as Republicans push to have a tax bill signed into law by year-end. Simplification is part of the GOP's promise to voters, but for many filers, a simpler tax code without the breaks they use the most could leave them paying more. ... The plans' biggest simplification affects itemized deductions. Republicans want to repeal the personal exemption, which would let taxpayers in 2018 subtract $4,150 from taxable income for themselves, their spouses and each of their dependents. They would replace it with a nearly doubled standard deduction of at least $24,000 while limiting or repealing deductions. The House and Senate would repeal the deduction for state and local income and sales taxes; the House would retain a partial property-tax deduction."

http://on.wsj.com/2jmugIC

BREAKING OVERNIGHT - "Powerful earthquake on Iran-Iraq border kills over 330," by AP's Nasser Karimi and Amir Vahdat in Tehran: "A powerful 7.3 magnitude earthquake that struck the Iraq-Iran border region killed over 330 people in both countries, sent people fleeing their homes into the night and was felt as far west as the Mediterranean coast, authorities reported on Monday. ... [Iranian state] television said some 3,950 were injured. ... More than 100 aftershocks followed." http://bit.ly/2AE0MKt

CATCHING YOU UP ON TRUMP ABROAD ...

-- TRUMP ON U.S.-INDIA RELATIONSHIP, per pooler NYT's Mark Landler: "He's become a friend of ours," Trump said of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi. "A great gentleman doing a fantastic job in bringing around lots of factions in India, bringing them all together. That's what I hear, and that's good news. A lot of good reports coming out of India."

-- TRUMP PRAISES PHILIPPINES PRESIDENT RODRIGO DUTERTE: "But ah, we've had a great relationship," Trump said. "This has been very successful. We've had many meetings today with many other leaders. The ASEAN conference has been handled beautifully by the president of the Philippines and your representatives. I've really enjoyed being here." Trump did not respond to questions from the pool about whether he had raised questions about human rights with Duterte.

-- HOW DUTERTE VIEWS THE MEDIA: "'Whoa, whoa,' Duterte said. 'This not a press statement. This is the bilateral meeting.' ... 'We will be discussing matters that are of interest to both the Philippines and ... with you around, guys, you are the spies.' 'Hah, hah, hah,' Trump said laughing. 'You are,' Duterte repeated."

-- White House Press Secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders told the reporters that the bilateral meeting focused on "ISIS, illegal drugs, and trade. Human rights briefly came up in the context of the Philippines' fight against illegal drugs. Pool tried again to elicit answer on whether Trump had raised human rights with Duterte, but did not get a response."

-- @alivitali: "Trump pleased with the opulent welcome treatment he's been given on this trip. 'It was a red carpet like nobody, I think, has probably ever seen.'"

****** **A message from Chevron:** When an endangered butterfly was found near a Chevron refinery, we protected the habitat and still plant the only thing they eat-buckwheat. Watch the video: http://politi.co/2ArlBXv ******

ANDREW RESTUCCIA in Manila, Philippines: **"Trump teases Wednesday trade announcement at the White House":** "President Donald Trump said Sunday he'll make a 'major' announcement on trade next week at the White House upon returning from his Asia trip. The statement, planned for Wednesday, will detail Trump's

discussions with world leaders during his 12-day, five-country tour of Asia. 'A lot of things are happening on trade and I'll be announcing pretty much what happened here and also with other meetings, including with China, South Korea and lots of other places,' Trump said during a trilateral meeting here with Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe.

"Trump added later, 'We've made some very big steps with respect to trade, far bigger than anything you know.' Trump did not offer any specifics about the pending announcement, but he complained about the large trade deficits with other nations. 'We have deficits with almost everybody,' he said. 'Those deficits are going to be cut very quickly and very substantially.'" http://politi.co/2yx4cgQ

-- "In Asia, Trump briefly baffled by group handshake," by AP's Jonathan Lemire in Manila: "President Donald Trump is known for his long, at times aggressive, handshakes with world leaders. But at an international summit in the Philippines on Monday, he struggled briefly with a different kind of handshake. Trump, in Manila, attended the opening ceremonies of the Association for Southeast Asian Nations conference, which began with pageantry and a group photo of the leaders. Then, the announcer intoned that it was time for the leaders to take part in the 'traditional' ASEAN handshake. It's a cross-body exercise, during which each leader extends their right arm over their left and shakes the opposite hands of those next to him.

"The announcer's instructions briefly baffled Trump, who at first simply crossed his hands in front of him. Then, looking around, he turned to the leaders that flanked him - Vietnamese Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc to his right, Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte to his left - and simply extended his arms outward, only to find that wasn't quite right either. Then he laughed, crossed his arms and reached to the correct sides. He grimaced at first, particularly when bending down to reach the hands of the two shorter leaders next to him. And then, with an exaggerated smile, he vigorously gripped their hands." http://bit.ly/2yVRf4o

-- "News photographer who protested White House restrictions on access gets revenge with revealing shot of Trump," by WaPo's David Nakamura in Manila: "On Monday, [NYT photographer Doug] Mills got his revenge at the Association of Southeast Asian Nations summit here with Trump in Manila. Admitted with the pool for a few minutes to observe the annual ritual of the ASEAN leaders' 'family photo,' Mills snapped a quick frame that spread quickly through social media after he posted it online." http://wapo.st/2jmLFB5 ... ***Doug's pic*** http://bit.ly/2yUGEGV

-- Press access continued to be an issue with pooler NYT's Mark Landler noting that the travel pool was going to be limited to only three people in Trump's trilateral meeting with Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe. After objections from the press, White House officials "negotiated again with their Japanese and Australian counterparts and informed us a few minutes later than the full pool would be admitted."

SUSAN GLASSER interviews **SUZANNE DIMAGGIO** in the latest "Global Politics" podcast: "'They want to know if he's crazy,' said Suzanne DiMaggio, 'or if this is just an act." 'They' is North Korean officials. And 'he' is Donald Trump. Four times over the last year, in Geneva, Pyongyang, Oslo and Moscow, DiMaggio has secretly met with North Koreans to talk about the country's nuclear program. But what they really want to talk about, DiMaggio said in an extensive new interview for The Global Politico, is America's volatile president. ... 'They really want to know what is his end game,' said DiMaggio, a scholar at New America who specializes in talking with rogue regimes and has spent nearly two decades in secret discussions with the North Koreans.

"She believes they were ready after Trump's surprise election to discuss a new round of official talks with the U.S. to defuse the standoff over their nuclear weapons - but that Trump's escalating rhetoric and Twitter rants such as his weekend taunting of North Korea's "short and fat" Kim Jong Un may have foreclosed that option. 'They follow the news very closely; they watch CNN 24/7; they read his tweets and other things.'" http://politi.co/2AG6mfu ... ***Listen to the full podcast*** http://apple.co/2kAoZfH

TROUBLE AT FORT MEADE -- NYT A1, "Security Breach and Spilled Secrets Have Shaken the N.S.A. to Its Core: A serial leak of the agency's cyberweapons has damaged morale, slowed intelligence operations and resulted in hacking attacks on businesses and civilians worldwide," by Scott Shane, Nicole Perlroth and David E. Sanger: "Current and former agency officials say the Shadow Brokers disclosures, which began in August 2016, have been catastrophic for the N.S.A., calling into question its ability to protect potent cyberweapons and its very value to national security. The agency regarded as the world's leader in breaking into adversaries' computer networks failed to protect its own. ...

"Fifteen months into a wide-ranging investigation by the agency's counterintelligence arm, known as Q Group, and the F.B.I., officials still do not know whether the N.S.A. is the victim of a brilliantly executed hack, with Russia as the most likely perpetrator, an insider's leak, or both. Three employees have been arrested since 2015 for taking classified files, but there is fear that one or more leakers may still be in place. And there is broad agreement that the damage from the Shadow Brokers already far exceeds the harm to American intelligence done by Edward J. Snowden, the former N.S.A. contractor who fled with four laptops of classified material in 2013." http://nyti.ms/2zSUjye

IN ALABAMA -- "Moore seeks to refocus campaign on conservative religious values amid firestorm," by WaPo's Elise Viebeck, Dino Grandoni and John Wagner: "Addressing a gathering at the Huntsville Christian Academy in Huntsville, Ala., on Sunday night, the former judge suggested that he was investigating his accusers, threatened to sue The Washington Post and called on the United States to restore its culture by going 'back to God.' 'We can be proud of where we came from and where we're going if we go back to God,' Moore said at his second public event since The Post reported the allegations of misconduct last week. 'If we go back to God, we can be unified again,' he said." http://wapo.st/2zDXb0T

-- "Sean Hannity fans #BoycottKeurig after brand pulls ads in wake of Roy Moore accusations," by Anna Claire Vollers in AL.com: "The #BoycottKeurig hastag was a top trending subject Sunday ... Some Twitter users posted videos of themselves smashing their Keurig coffee makers. ... The ad removal came after Alabama Senate candidate Roy Moore's appearance on Hannity's radio show on Friday ... [in which] Hannity said Moore should be given the benefit of the doubt. At least five companies ... have pulled ads from the television show after Hannity interviewed Moore: Keurig, Realtor.com, 23 and Me, Eloquii and Nature's Bounty." http://bit.ly/2yxdxVH

REALITY CHECK -- "Despite Recent Wins for Democrats, Gerrymanders Dim Hopes for 2018," by NYT's Alex Burns, Michael Wines and Trip Gabriel: "Around the country, gerrymandering, refined to a high art, and increasingly restrictive voting laws have left many experts wary of assuming that the intensity of Democratic voters will translate into equally robust electoral gains. ... Striving to expand the political playing field, Democrats have announced a target list of 80 House seats ... But in a sign of their fundamental advantages, Republicans have a far shorter list of races that concern them, and multiple party strategists said they believed there were only 35 to 40 Republican lawmakers in seats that Democrats could seize." http://nyti.ms/2jn2EDo

BUT, BUT, BUT -- "Democrats smell opportunity in the South after Virginia rout," by Gabe Debenedetti: "National Democrats are seeing glimmers of electoral hope flickering across the deep red South for the first time in years. Fresh off sweeping victories in Virginia, and eyeing a possible historic upset in Alabama, the party is looking ahead to a political environment next year defined by both energized liberal base voters and discouraged conservatives. That, combined with an intraparty GOP war, has liberal leaders taking a new look at Senate, gubernatorial and House races in Georgia, South Carolina, Tennessee, North Carolina and Mississippi, in addition to next month's contest in Alabama. One or two upsets in the South next year could be the difference in which party controls the Senate after next year's midterms." http://politi.co/2zzS4iE

MUELLER WATCH -- "What Mueller's org chart reveals about his Russia probe," by Darren Samuelsohn: "Special counsel Robert Mueller has not publicly uttered a single word about the direction of his high-stakes Russia probe. But the way he's assigned the 17 federal prosecutors on his team - pieced together by POLITICO from court filings and interviews with lawyers familiar with the Russia cases -gives insight into how he's conducting the investigation and what might be coming next.

"His most experienced attorneys have discrete targets, such as former Donald Trump campaign chairman Paul Manafort, former national security adviser Michael Flynn and current White House aides. Mueller's longtime chief of staff is coordinating all the lawyers, including some who cover multiple topics. Select FBI special agents have been tapped to question witnesses.

"Spearheading the criminal case against Manafort and his longtime deputy Rick Gates are three prosecutors schooled in money laundering, fraud, foreign bribery and

organized crime: Andrew Weissmann, Greg Andres and Kyle Freeny. ... Mueller's org chart pulls back the curtain on how the special counsel's relatively small team is handling an array of investigative targets ranging from campaign contacts with Russian operatives to possibly Trump himself." http://politi.co/2jmAQPF

BIDEN WATCH -- "Biden on 2020: 'Not sure it's the appropriate thing' to do," by AP's Zeke Miller: "Former Vice President Joe Biden says he's uncertain about a run for president in 2020, but he indicates he's looking for fresh blood to lead the Democratic Party. Biden ran for president in 1992 and 2008. As far as another bid, he says, 'I'm just not sure it's the appropriate thing for me to do.' His comments come in an interview with Snapchat's 'Good Luck America' set to be released Tuesday morning. It's one of Biden's first on-camera interviews since leaving office in January. In the interview, Biden says, 'We gotta turn this ship around' and adds that 'I'd much prefer to be helping someone turn it around than being the guy trying to turn it around.'" https://yhoo.it/2jmfTEv

THE JUICE ...

-- KATIE WALDMAN, who worked for Sen. Steve Daines (R-Mont.), is joining DHS as assistant press secretary. **Breanna Deutsch** starts today as press secretary for Daines. She was most recently with Rep. Dave Reichert (R-Wash.).

-- ARE YOU INVITED? @maggieNYT: "Trump White House Hanukkah party invites have gone out for Dec. 7."

REMEMBERING LIZ SMITH -- NYT's Robert D. McFadden: "Liz Smith, the longtime queen of New York's tabloid gossip columns, who for more than three decades chronicled little triumphs and trespasses in the soap-opera lives of the rich, the famous and the merely beautiful, died on Sunday at her home in Manhattan. She was 94. ... From hardscrabble nights writing snippets for a Hearst newspaper in the 1950s to golden afternoons at Le Cirque with Sinatra or Hepburn and tête-à-tête dinners with Madonna to gather material for columns that ran six days a week, Ms. Smith captivated millions with her tattletale chitchat and, over time, ascended to fame and wealth that rivaled those of the celebrities she covered." http://nyti.ms/2yXdE17

Playbook Reads

PHOTO DU JOUR: President Donald Trump reacts as he does the "ASEAN-way handshake" with Vietnamese Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc (left) and Philippines President Rodrigo Duterte (right) on stage during the opening ceremony at the ASEAN Summit at the Cultural Center of the Philippines in Manila, Philippines on Nov 13. | Andrew Harnik/AP Photo

GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN -- "Price investigation continues to roil HHS," by

Rachana Pradhan and Dan Diamond: "Tom Price left his job as Health and Human Services secretary in September, but the investigation into his use of private jets for official travel now threatens to enmesh others in the department. The department's inspector-general's probe will review who approved - or should have been approving - Price's use of private jets on at least 26 trips from May to September, some of them quick jaunts on routes heavily traveled by commercial aircraft, according to three people with knowledge of the probe. ...

"Price's use of corporate jets appears to run afoul of federal regulations stating that private travel should be approved only when commercial flights aren't feasible, and the inspector-general probe is likely to put a spotlight on HHS Assistant Secretary for Administration John Bardis, the official designated in department rules as overseeing the travel approval process along with the HHS general counsel's office. Bardis is, in some ways, a unique appointee - a Georgia-based entrepreneur who was named by Price to the job in March. ...

"Before joining the federal government, Bardis used his own corporate jets to fly executives, sometimes for charity missions, which may have made him more indulgent of Price's requests for one, according to one individual who's worked with him." http://politi.co/2iaDhkH

NEW POLICY - USA Today 1A, "Army lifts ban on waivers for recruits with history of some mental health issues," by Tom Vanden Brook: "People with a history of 'self-mutilation,' bipolar disorder, depression and drug and alcohol abuse can now seek waivers to join the Army under an unannounced policy enacted in August, according to documents obtained by USA TODAY. ... To meet last year's goal of 69,000 [new recruits], the Army accepted more recruits who fared poorly on aptitude tests, increased the number of waivers granted for marijuana use and offered hundreds of millions of dollars in bonuses." https://usat.ly/2iaegWT

****** **A message from Chevron:** This is a story about DOERS, butterflies, and buckwheat. In '75, the endangered El Segundo Blue butterfly was found near a Chevron refinery. We protected the habitat and planted the only thing they eat-buckwheat. We're still planting and keeping an eye on our littlest neighbor. Watch the video: http://politi.co/2ArlBXv ******

THE RESISTANCE -- "Top Democrats stage anti-Trump revolt at Bonn climate summit," by David Siders and Emily Holden: "A handful of Democratic governors and scores of other lawmakers and mayors are mounting an insurgency at the United Nations climate conference here, orchestrating a highly choreographed campaign to persuade world leaders that President Donald Trump doesn't speak for the United States on climate change. Several Democratic U.S. senators began meeting last week with officials from other countries, seeking to minimize Trump's withdrawal from the Paris climate agreement. Meanwhile, the governors of California, Virginia, Oregon and Washington - along with mayors from throughout the nation - were expected to touch off a blitz of public appearances at the conference as the meeting enters its final week."

http://politi.co/2zTnQrR

-- "Warren focuses on Democratic unity at town hall," by Massachusetts Playbooker Lauren Dezenski in Greenfield, Mass.: "Democratic Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren told a packed town hall Sunday that her party has grown more unified since President Donald Trump's inauguration, despite the recent eruption of intramural fights over the 2016 presidential election. 'We have come together as the party of opposition,' Warren told reporters after the town hall in western Massachusetts. ...

"Since the election, Warren has avoided reopening the wounds of Clinton's shocking loss. On Sunday, she focused on steps current chairman Tom Perez is taking to address the underlying 'problems' that plagued the DNC's handling of the Clinton vs. Sanders primary, saying Perez is 'negotiating rules to make sure that never happens again.'" http://politi.co/2hv0Ilp

HMM -- WSJ A1, "Surveillance Cameras Made by China Are Hanging All Over the U.S.," by Dan Strumpf, Natasha Khan and Charles Rollet: "The Memphis police use the surveillance cameras to scan the streets for crime. The U.S. Army uses them to monitor a base in Missouri. ... At one point, the cameras kept watch on the U.S. embassy in Kabul. All the devices were manufactured by a single company, Hangzhou Hikvision Digital Technology. It is 42%-owned by the Chinese government. Hikvision (pronounced 'hike-vision') was nurtured by Beijing to help keep watch on its 1.4 billion citizens, part of a vast expansion of its domestic-surveillance apparatus. In the process, the little-known company has become the world's largest maker of surveillance cameras." http://on.wsj.com/2zzyAL2

Playbookers

SPOTTED: Joe Biden riding Amtrak north Sunday afternoon "saying hi to kids," per a tipster.

TRANSITIONS - FIRST IN PLAYBOOK: CHRISTINA REYNOLDS has been hired as the VP of communications at EMILY's List. She most recently was SVP at Global Strategy Group and deputy comms director for Hillary for America. EMILY's List has also promoted **Ben Dotson** to VP of digital.

WEEKEND WEDDINGS -- Former Rep. John Barrow (D-Ga.) on Sunday married **Angèle Hawkins,** co-founder of Dynamix Group Inc. and New Hope Enterprises, in a ceremony in Georgia surrounded by family and friends. Pool report: "Barrow is currently running for Georgia Secretary of State; the election will be held November 2018. ... They met while he was in Congress but only started dating after he left. At the time of their engagement, Playbook reported that he told a former colleague, 'This never would've happened if I was still married to my old job. Thank you, John Boehner!" ***Pic of the couple on the dance floor*** http://bit.ly/2ABQfyz **SPOTTED:** Ashley Jones, Lynthia

Ross, Jonathan Arogeti, Justin Davey

-- Greg Kelly, former co-host of "Fox and Friends" and White House correspondent for Fox News, on Sunday married **Judith Grey,** a freelance creative director who grew up in Australia. The ceremony was at the University Club in Manhattan. Kelly was most recently co-host of "Good Day New York." "About 300 guests saw former NYC Mayor David Dinkins officiate. Former NYC Police Commissioner Ray Kelly and his wife Veronica [Greg's parents] hosted. The couple's first dance was to 'With You I'm Born Again.'" ***Pics*** http://bit.ly/2yVB72T ... http://bit.ly/2ia8HHM ... http://bit.ly/2zFT171

SPOTTED: Lally Weymouth, Alexandra Wolfe, Shirley Lord Rosenthal, Rhona Graff, Ron Lauder, John Catsimatidis, Francine LeFrak, Lloyd Grove, Gigi Stone Woods, Emily Smith, Richard Johnson, Peter Johnson, Jr., Judy Miller, Ed Cox, Sara and James Rosen, Robert Zimmerman, Oscar and Didi Schafer, Mickey Kaus, Gayfryd Steinberg, Michael Shnayerson, David Monn, Frank Bisignano, Mark Simone, Morgan Pehme.

-- Mark Bednar, comms director for Rep. Sean Duffy (R-Wisc.), and **Lindsay Bembenek,** comms director at the Information Technology and Innovation Foundation and a U.S. Chamber alum, were married at the Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist in Milwaukee on Saturday with a reception at the Hilton City Center. "The couple met at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and LOVE the Packers." ***Pics*** http://bit.ly/2AFfhOk ... http://bit.ly/2AGaFrp ... ***NYT announcement*** http://nyti.ms/2hmdS6E

SPOTTED: Rep. Sean Duffy, John Murray, Michael Ramlet and Brook Hougesen, Keith Gilkes and his wife Kristin, Brian Reisinger, Andrew and Rachel Millard, Will Allison, Ally Manley, Ben Voelkel, Ryan and Suzanne Wrasse, Johnny Koremenos, John Horstman, Bobby Hamill, Jon Rosborough and Katie Niederee, Jon Blum and Mandi Critchfield, Kate Welsh, Drew and Stephanie Marrs, Rachel Hicks, Jared Michael, Stephen Duerst, Emily Wilkinson, Kyle Dropp, John Halliwell.

BIRTHDAY OF THE DAY: journalist **Harry Hurt III,** also a private tutor and golf guru, is 66. **How he got his start in journalism:** "I got my start in serious journalism as a sophomore at my college newspaper, The Harvard Crimson, which was once edited by Franklin D. Roosevelt and subsequently spawned the likes of David Halberstam, James Fallows, and Nicholas Lemann. Soon after, I turned pro and got my first paying gig at an 'underground' newspaper called The Real Paper. That rag was edited by future NPR host Paul Solomon, who also published the likes of future Newsweek correspondent Joe Klein and future New York Times critic Janet Maslin." **Read his Playbook Plus Q&A:** http://politi.co/2hq1a7h

BIRTHDAYS: Peter Arnett ... Jimmy Kimmel ... Addie Whisenant, director at Bully Pulpit Interactive ... NPR alum Ken Rudin ... Michael Schwab, video strategist for USA Today Network, is 31 ... Geoff Freeman, president and CEO of the American Gaming Association (hat tip: Stewart Verdery) ... Lindsay Drewel ... Politico alum Jonathan Topaz, now at Harvard Law School (h/t Ben Schreckinger) ... Zach Gillan, research director at American Action Network and the Congressional Leadership Fund, is 29 ...

Jared Goldberg-Leopold is 35 ... Jared Parks, senior director for advocacy and external affairs for the Global Intellectual Property Center at the U.S. Chamber, is 34 ... CNN's Eric Bradner ... Sen. Dan Sullivan (R-Alaska) is 53 ... Jeff Blattner, president of Legal Policy Solutions (h/t Jon Haber) ...

... Joe Cirincione, president of Ploughshares Fund ... Jon Wadsworth, partner at Atlas Advocacy and Howard Dean 2004 alum, celebrating by "screaming his way into another year of life" (h/t Matt Smith) ... Nochi Dankner is 63 ... Harold Waldenberg ... Saul Kripke is 77 ... Ayaan Hirsi Ali is 48 ... Massachusetts Gov. Charlie Baker is 61 (h/t Ed Cash, who calls Baker "the most popular elected official in America") ... Ruth Wattenberg ... Nochi Dankner ... Kevin Pailet ... Ari Morgenstern ... Dominique Mann ... Brad Clark ... Texas Gov. Greg Abbott is 6-0 ... Texas First Lady Cecilia Abbott ... Nikki Blank ... Kelly Hughes ... Morgan Downey ... Edelman's Camille Uzel ... David Alexander ... Sherine El-Nahas ... Robert Hastings, EVP at Bell Helicopter ... Chuck Thies ... Marion Steinfels ... WashTimes' Seth McLaughlin is 4-0 ... Mark Cheadle ... Terry Adamson, VP of global law affairs at Boeing and a NatGeo alum ... Ken Asby ... John Lapp ... Martha McKenna ... Tanya Brown (h/ts Teresa Vilmain)

****** **A message from Chevron:** This is a story about DOERS, butterflies, and buckwheat. In '75, the endangered El Segundo Blue butterfly was found near a Chevron refinery. We protected the habitat and planted the only thing they eat-buckwheat. We're still planting and keeping an eye on our littlest neighbor. Watch the video: http://politi.co/2ArIBXv ******

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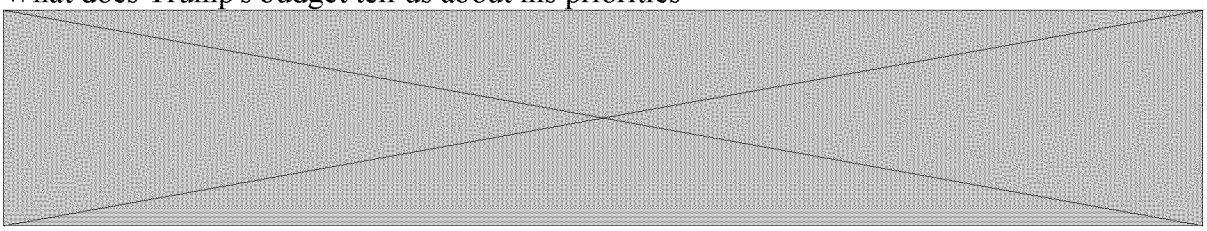
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Subject: AEI Today: What does Trump's budget tell us about his priorities

What does Trump's budget tell us about his priorities



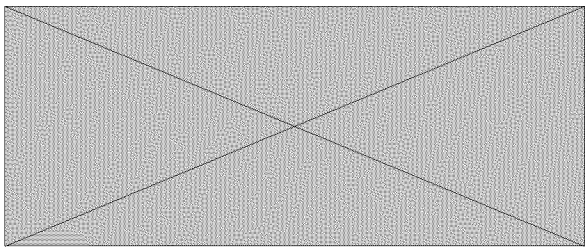
AEI's daily publication of independent research, insightful analysis, and scholarly debate

Reuters

What does Trump's budget tell us about his priorities

James C. Capretta | Real Clear Policy

One of the reasons Donald Trump prospered during the presidential campaign was because he created the impression that he would bring fresh thinking to the federal government. While the budget Mick Mulvaney presented last week has a number of bold choices, many of the fiscal realities just do not add up.



Reuters

The demographic lessons from the 2016

election

Karlyn Bowman and Eleanor O'Neil | Forbes

Conventional wisdom from political analysts holds that as the US electorate becomes more diverse, groups such as Hispanics and Asians will exert greater electoral clout over time. But a new report from the Census on voting in 2016 shows that this transformation of the electoral landscape won't happen overnight.

Reuters

Campus free-speech laws are just the beginning

Frederick M. Hess and Grant Addison | National Review Online

In May, Tennessee enacted the Campus Free Speech Protection Act. The law is based on model legislation the Goldwater Institute drafted and has been hailed as the nation's "most comprehensive" protection for campus speech by FIRE's Robert Shibley. Similar legislation has been proposed in statehouses across the nation. The statute is an important victory, yet lawmakers and like-minded allies need to recognize that it is only a start.

Reuters

Did high turnout really legitimize Iranian elections?

Michael Rubin | AEIdeas

Tehran-based New York Times correspondent Thomas Erdbrink reported breathlessly about lines so long that authorities had to extend voting three times for Iran's presidential elections.There is a certain irony when journalists pour over and argue about voter participation rates in an open democracy such as the United States but will blindly accept statistics from an autocratic and often opaque regime like that of Iran.

More from AEI

What's missing from the parental leave policy discussion
Aparna Mathur | AEIdeas

Analyzing the impact of the Trump budget on education

Frederick M. Hess | Education Next

Breaking down Buzzfeed's report on the Trump-Duterte phone call

Michael Mazza | AEIdeas

The hyperbole surrounding work requirements

Marc A. Thiessen | AEIdeas

Why hasn't the fever pitch from the 2016 election broken yet?

Ramesh Ponnuru | National Review

Keeping the internet open and innovative: A long-read Q&A with Brent Skorup

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To: Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
From: Morning Energy
Sent: Mon 6/19/2017 2:07:50 PM
Subject: POLITICO's Morning Energy: Zinke, Perry play defense on budget requests this week — Examining Trump's energy holdings — Checking in on coal country

By Anthony Adragna | 06/19/2017 10:00 AM EDT

With assistance from Annie Snider

KINGS OF THE HILL: Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke and Energy Secretary Rick Perry are barnstorming Capitol Hill this week, hitting multiple committees to defend the administration's requests for steep budget cuts. Expect lawmakers to be cool to the call to slash Interior's budget by $1.1 billion, or ten percent, from last year's spending levels, and similar skepticism for the proposed 18 percent cut to DOE's non-nuclear security work. EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt drew some hostile questioning from both Democrats and Republicans during a similar budget hearing last week.

Zinke heads first to the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee at 10 a.m. Tuesday, followed by a 9:30 a.m. trip to Senate Appropriators the following day (Sen. Lisa Murkowski will chair both hearings). And then he'll get some face time with House Natural Resources Chairman Rob Bishop on Thursday for similar treatment. Look for intense questioning on Zinke's ongoing review of dozens national monument designations that were made under the Antiquities Act, as well his plans to shuffle several senior department staff. And ME would be shocked if House Natural Resources' top Democrat Raul Grijalva didn't push for some promise from Zinke to respond to his bevy of oversight letter requests.

Perry's turn in the hot seat kicks off Tuesday at 1 p.m. in a visit with House Appropriators, followed by a 2:30 p.m. hearing the following day with Senate energy spending cardinals. ME expects the former Texas governor (who tweeted about everything from live music to college baseball over the weekend) to get lots of questions about funding for clean energy research programs and national laboratories, both of which are targeted for deep cuts under Trump's budget. And look for climate hawks to press Perry to justify closing the Office of International Climate and Technology within DOE.

HITTING THE HOUSE FLOOR: Lawmakers are expected to consider legislation on the floor this week that backers say will improve grid reliability and reduce the risks of wildfires by making it easier to remove trees and other vegetation near electric equipment on federal lands. The Electricity Reliability and Forest Protection Act (H.R. 1873) cleared the House Natural Resources Committee by a 24 to 14 vote in late April. Also expected to get a vote is the Water Supply Permitting Coordination Act (H.R. 1654) (more on that below.) The House Rules Committee takes up both measures Tuesday at 5 p.m.

WELCOME TO A NEW WEEK! I'm your host Anthony Adragna, and I'm only with you for part of this week, as I'm off to get married at the end of it! But in the meantime, Christopher Pearcey was first to identify Philadelphia as the site of the First Continental Congress. For today: Who was the person who infamously asked Sen. Joseph McCarthy "Have you no sense of

decency?" Send your tips, energy gossip and comments to aadragna@politico.com, or follow us on Twitter @AnthonyAdragna, @Morning_Energy, and @POLITICOPro.

GLANCING INTO TRUMP'S ENERGY PORTFOLIO: President Donald Trump made between $149,719 and $401,000 from holdings in the energy sector, according to his latest financial disclosure covering the 2016 calendar year and the early months of 2017. Trump reported energy holdings in GE, Halliburton, Kinder Morgan, Phillips 66, NextEra Energy, Chevron, Exxon Mobil and Shell, among others. Theodoric Meyer and Matthew Nussbaum have a closer look at the disclosure form here.

ON THE WATER DOCKET: After winning a relaxing of environmental restrictions on pumping in California's water hub last year, the state's House Republicans are this week poised to move on Rep. Tom McClintock 's "Water Supply Permitting Coordination Act," which would change the way new water storage projects are permitted and put the Bureau of Reclamation in the driver's seat for approving new dams and reservoirs. The measure, which is slated to hit the House floor Thursday, passed the House Natural Resources Committee earlier this month over Democratic objections that it could short-circuit environmental review and arguments that the real challenge to new reservoirs is not permitting, but economics.

Not to be outdone, the Senate has its own full water agenda this week, with an Environment and Public Works Committee subpanel considering innovative financing options for addressing the country's water infrastructure woes Tuesday morning and the Energy and Natural Resources Committee holding a hearing that afternoon on federal and state partnerships aimed at restoring watersheds and other large scale restoration projects.

WHAT'S GOING ON IN COAL COUNTRY? James Higdon checks in on Eastern Kentucky for POLITICO Magazine and finds job losses continue in the coal industry there, but there's increased optimism that the bleeding has been staunched. There's also been surprise demand from Silicon Valley for the rare earth elements and a type of metallurgic coal needed to make silicon, the basic material for computer chips and solar panels. But the overall sense remains the federal government is not a benevolent force for the region: There's "a perception in communities like this that we're being done wrong. People around here get the feeling that the government is not being reputable with them." Pat White, the County Judge Executive for Whitley County, told James.

KLOBUCHAR: WHERE ARE THE PICKS? Asked on "Fox News Sunday" whether Democrats shared some of the blame for Trump's swath of unfilled federal agency positions, Minnesota Sen. Amy Klobuchar correctly pointed out the White House had yet to send over hundreds of nominees for the Senate to consider. "I'm not saying we are perfect throughout time, but I do know that all of his cabinet nominees are now in place, that they have been voted on, some with significant Democratic support," she said. And they "haven't put people up for a lot of those positions."

TAKING STOCK OF TEXAS SHALE: The Academy of Medicine, Engineering & Science of Texas is today releasing a report examining the environmental and community impacts of shale production in that state. Key findings: Texas produced more oil in 2015 than all but six

countries, oil and natural gas generated $1.7 billion in property tax revenue for Texas schools, and earthquakes in the state jumped from around two a year before 2008 to between 12 and 15 since then. In addition, Texas ranks 11th in the country for at-risk species though the fact that 95 percent of state's land is privately owned limits study of land impacts, five percent of emitters account for about half all emissions and fracking accounts for less than one percent of statewide water usage. The group will hold a webinar at 11 a.m. EST today to discuss its findings.

EPA PULLS, RESENDS COAL ASH GUIDANCE: Last week, EPA withdrew from OMB its original draft guidance for states on setting up coal ash permitting programs, but promptly swapped in a new version, Pro's Alex Guillén reports in Energy Regulation Watch. It's not yet clear why EPA had to pull its first version just three weeks after it sent the document over to the White House for regulatory reform.

WHAT'S HOLDING BACK CLEAN ENERGY? The Joint Economic Committee Democrats are out with a report today identifying the impediments they say are holding back the speedier deployment of clean energy technologies. Some of the holdups they highlight: "Implicit and explicit" subsidies that benefit fossil fuels and make it harder for clean energy to compete; underinvestment from the private sector in new energy sources; existing energy infrastructure that's built to accommodate fossil fuels and "inconsistent or unclear policy directions" that make it hard for investors to feel comfortable investing in new clean technologies.

OIL SECTOR DEFENDS NAFTA: Maintaining the current basic contours of NAFTA is crucial if the U.S. hopes to achieve energy independence, the American Petroleum Institute wrote in a letter to the U.S. Trade Representative. As Ben Lefebvre reports , the group's priorities in negotiations include prohibiting tariffs, protecting intellectual property rights, ensuring mobility of labor and adding more flexible language for diluents, the light oil that Canadian oil sands producers mix into bitumen to make it easier to process and send through pipelines. "The overall functionality of the current NAFTA agreement works for the oil and natural gas industry," API said.

HOUSE DEMS: REVERSE COURSE ON PARIS: Nearly 90 percent of House Democrats, led by Rep. Brad Schneider, introduced a resolution Friday saying that they "strongly disapprove" of Trump's decision to pull out of the Paris climate accord and urging him to reverse that decision.

MARKEY TO PERRY: DON'T CLOSE CLIMATE OFFICE: Avowed climate hawk Sen. Ed Markey sent a letter to Perry Friday urging him to reverse course on his plans to shutter the Energy Department's Office of International Climate and Technology.

KAINE SCREENS SEA-LEVEL RISE DOCUMENTARY: Virginia Sen. Tim Kaine today delivers opening remarks and hosts a screening of a new documentary, *Tidewater*, exploring the impacts of sea-level rise on the Hampton Roads region. It kicks off at 6 p.m. in the Congressional Meeting Room North of the Capitol Visitors Center.

LAWMAKERS TO PRUITT: KEEP WAIVER ABILITY INTACT: More than 75 House members urged Pruitt in a Friday letter to keep intact the ability for states like California and

others to set tougher vehicle emissions standards than federal ones. "If the administration is unwilling to support stronger fuel efficiency and emissions standards, it is more important than ever that states be allowed to continue driving innovation, consumer choice and environmental and public health improvements through strong state standards," they wrote. Pruitt told House Appropriators last week California's current waiver is " not under review." Republicans Carlos Curbelo and Mike Coffman joined dozens of Democrats in signing the letter.

RENEWABLE CREDIT EXTENSION SIGNED IN FLORIDA: Among the 13 bills signed into law by Florida Gov. Rick Scott Friday was one that extended a property tax break from residential to commercial for renewable energy source devices, POLITICO Florida's Bruce Ritchie reports. The bill, which implements a 2016 constitutional amendment, won the backing of environmental groups and solar panel installers even though the Florida House added some consumer protection measures.

POWERING THE NEXT GENERATION GRID: Eight national renewable energy groups released a vision statement today calling for correctly valuing both new and existing technologies, tax policy that protects existing credits for renewables and "expansion and modernization of the power grid." Signatories include the American Council on Renewable Energy, the American Wind Energy Association, American Biogas Council, Biomass Power Association, Energy Recovery Council, Geothermal Energy Association, National Hydropower Association and Solar Energy Industries Association.

MOVER, SHAKER: Jim Jones has joined Consumer Specialty Products Association as the executive vice president of strategic alliances and industry relations; he was previously the top chemicals official at EPA and played a key role in ushering through the bipartisan overhaul of the Toxic Substances Control Act.

ENERGY GROUP ADDS BOARD MEMBERS: Sen. Lamar Alexander and Rep. Dave Reichert are among the seven new members of the Alliance to Save Energy's Board of Directors. Also joining: Paula R. Glover, president of the American Association of Blacks in Energy; Microsoft's Bert Van Hoof; Andreas Schierenbeck, CEO of Thyssenkrupp Elevator AG; Maryrose Sylvester, president of Current; and Steve Wright, general manager of the Chelan Public Utility District.

QUICK HITS

- 'Pi' group makes first endorsements. The Hill.

- Scott Pruitt vows to speed the nation's Superfund cleanups. Communities wonder how. Washington Post.

- Lawmakers say GOP reining in DNR scientists who rebelled on climate change. Madison.com.

- Sweden's Largest Pension Fund Sells Off ExxonMobil & TransCanada Stock. CleanTechnica.

- Patagonia's CEO Is Ready To Lead The Corporate Resistance To Donald Trump. Huffington

Post.

- Qatar won't cut gas to UAE: Qatar Petroleum CEO. Reuters.

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http://www.politico.com/tipsheets/morning-energy/2017/06/19/zinke-perry-play-defense-on-budget-requests-this-week-220907

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From: POLITICO Pro Energy Whiteboard
Sent: Tue 6/6/2017 2:17:41 PM
Subject: Court gives EPA 10 days to justify delay of oil rules

By Alex Guillén

06/06/2017 10:15 AM EDT

The D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals today ordered EPA to respond by June 15 to environmental groups' lawsuit over the agency's 90-day stay of key methane leak detection and repair requirements for new oil and gas wells.

The green groups on Monday filed an emergency motion asking the court to intervene and lift EPA's stay. A three-judge panel has ordered EPA to respond by 4 p.m. on June 15, with the green groups' reply due by June 20. The rapid timeline indicates the court may decide whether to block EPA's stay, thereby restoring the leak requirements, by the end of the month.

Environmentalists argued that the stay, as well as a longer stay EPA is preparing to propose, will harm public health by continuing to allow pollutants to leak from oil and gas facilities. Some 18,000 wells and other sites in 22 states are affected, according to the groups.

WHAT'S NEXT: EPA must file a legal brief outlining its justification for delaying the methane rule by 4 p.m. on June 15. Environmental groups' reply is due June 20, and the court is likely to weigh in soon after that.

To view online:
https://www.politicopro.com/energy/whiteboard/2017/06/court-gives-epa-10-days-to-justify-delay-of-oil-rules-088646

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From: POLITICO Pro Energy Whiteboard
Sent: Tue 7/25/2017 4:45:56 PM
Subject: Energy, Interior nominees answer questions from committee

By POLITICO Pro Staff

07/25/2017 12:40 PM EDT

President Donald Trump's nominees for several senior posts at the Energy and Interior departments have submitted responses to questions for the record, copies of which were obtained by POLITICO.

The Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee will vote Thursday to advance the nominations. Click for copies of responses from nominees Mark Wesley Menezes, to be undersecretary of DOE; David Jonas, for DOE's general counsel; Paul Dabbar, to be DOE undersecretary for science; Brenda Burman, who would lead Interior's Bureau of Reclamation; Susan Combs, to be Interior's assistant secretary of policy management and budget; and Douglas Domenech, to be assistant secretary of insular affairs at Interior.

WHAT'S NEXT: The committee meets at 9:30 a.m. Thursday to vote on the nominees.

To view online:
https://www.politicopro.com/energy/whiteboard/2017/07/energy-interior-nominees-answer-questions-from-committee-091019

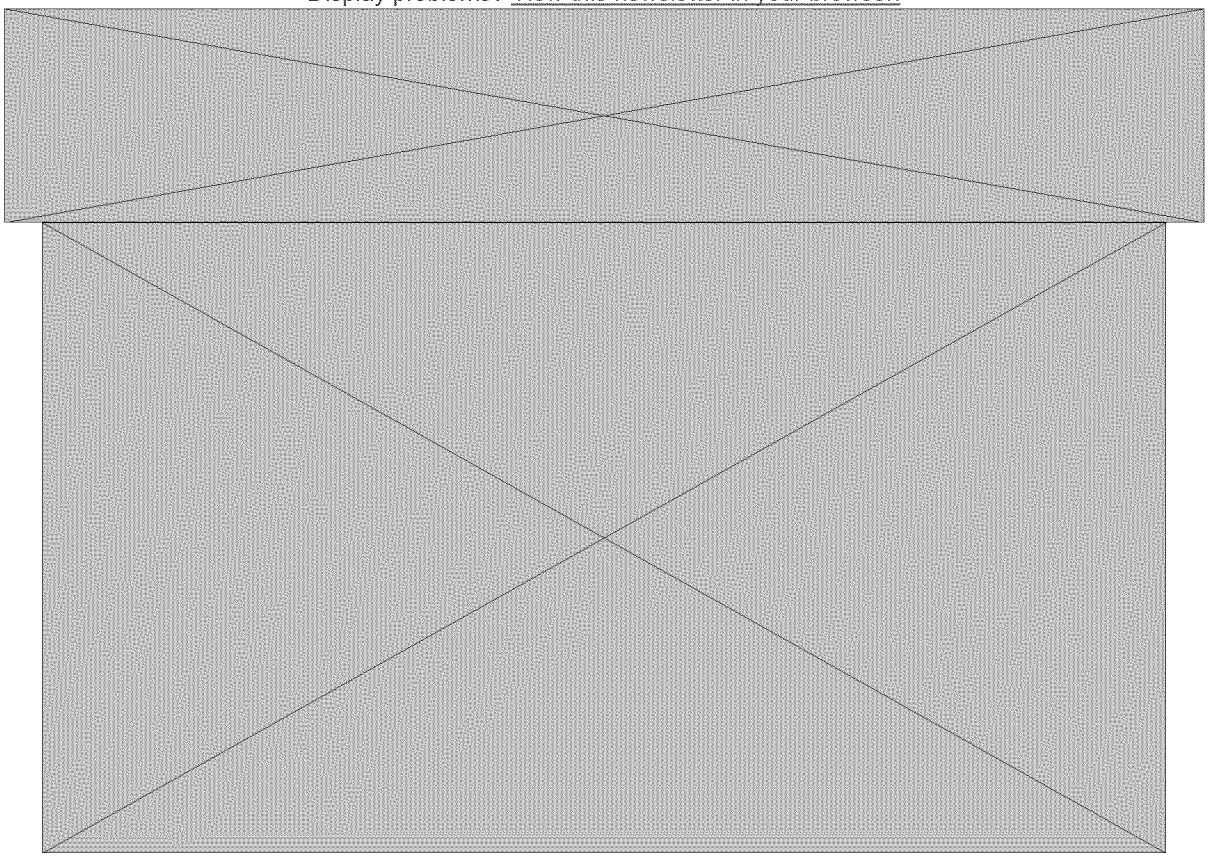
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Subject: Data Strategy is Essential to Stopping Insider Threats | Automated License Plate Readers on the Border | Measuring Cyber Effectiveness

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Long-Term Data Strategy is Necessary to Stop Insider Threats

Insider threat protection programs accumulate massive storage volumes in order to monitor and track user activity over time. What data organizations choose to collect – and how long they choose to retain it – depends on its risk tolerance and how much its willing to spend. Read More

License Plate Readers Receive U.S. Border Upgrade

U.S. Customs and Border Protection is planning to upgrade automated license plate readers to help monitor traffic along the northern and southern borders. Recognition technology is reaping

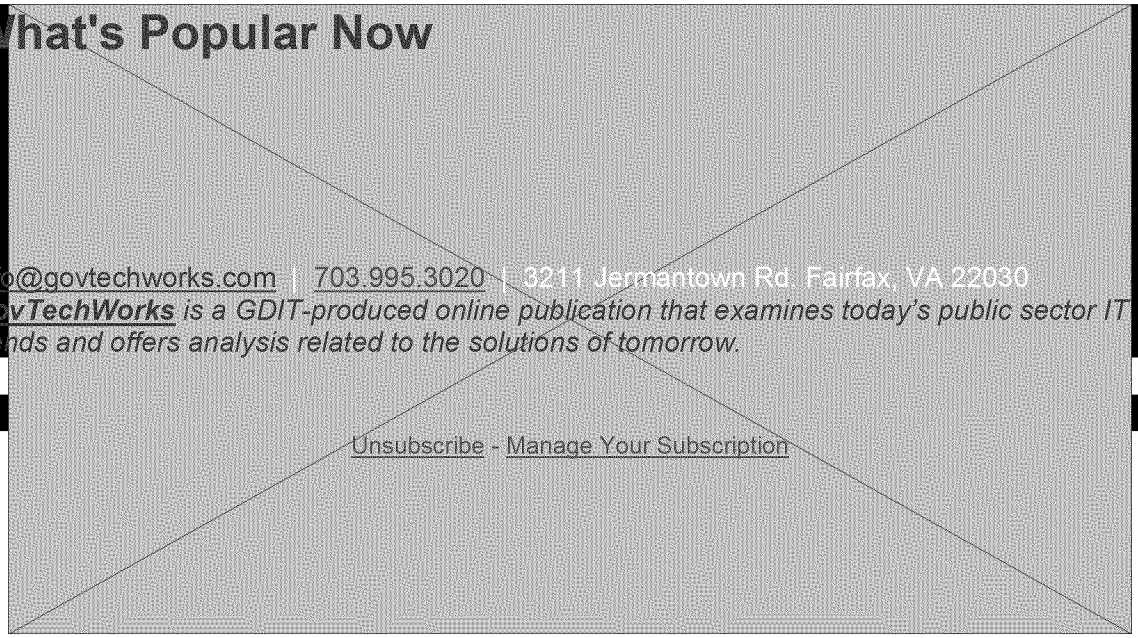


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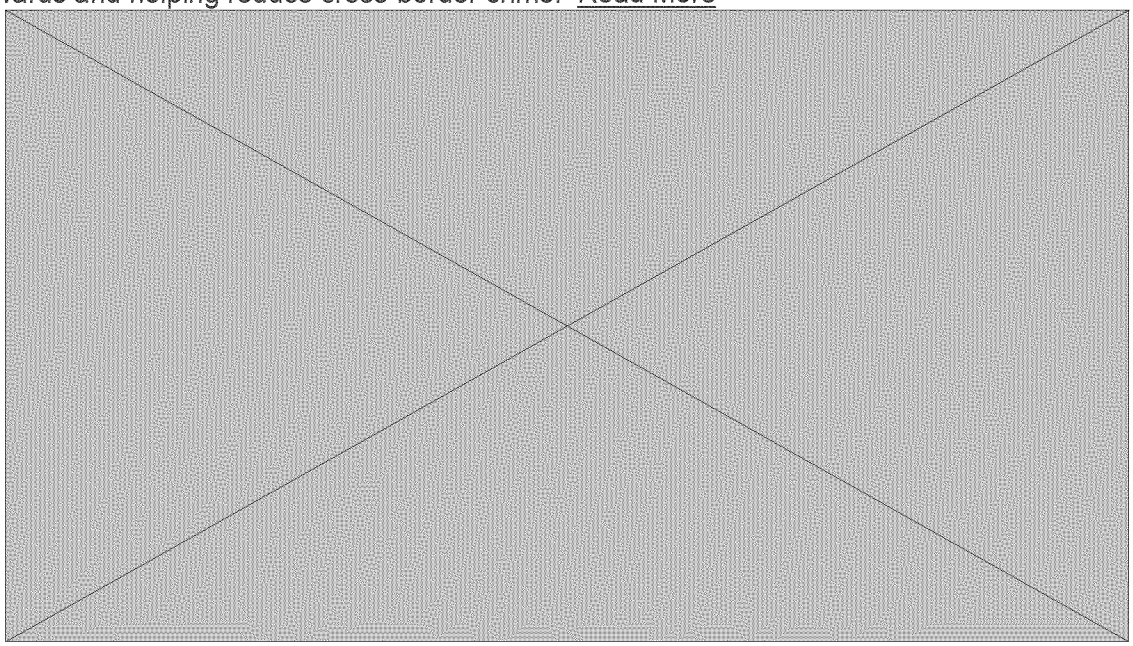
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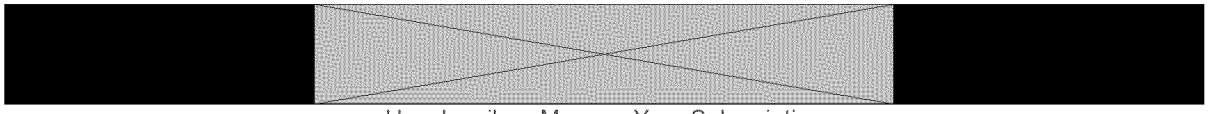
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From: POLITICO Pro Energy Whiteboard
Sent: Fri 6/16/2017 6:35:12 PM
Subject: Source: EPA's RFS volumes proposal announcement pushed back

By Eric Wolff

06/16/2017 02:31 PM EDT

EPA has delayed until next week a proposed rule setting the 2018 biofuel volume mandates under the Renewable Fuel Standard, sources told POLITICO today.

The agency had been planning to release the volume requirements on Thursday or today, according to the sources.

EPA has not replied to questions about the timing of the proposal's release.

To view online:
https://www.politicopro.com/energy/whiteboard/2017/06/source-epas-rfs-volumes-proposal-announcement-pushed-back-089231

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To: Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
From: Bloomberg BNA
Sent: Thur 6/8/2017 7:58:57 PM
Subject: June 8 -- Energy and Climate Report - Afternoon Briefing

Energy and Climate Report

Afternoon Briefing - Your Preview of Today's News

The following news provides a snapshot of what Bloomberg BNA is working on today. Read the full version of all the stories in the final issue, published each night.

Nuclear Subsidies Slow to Catch on as Opposition Steps Up

Posted June 08, 2017, 02:14 P.M. ET

By Jim Polson

Almost a year after New York became the first state to approve subsidies for nuclear reactors threatened with closure, efforts to replicate the model elsewhere are proving a tough sell.

Lawmakers in Connecticut failed to pass a bill June 7 that was designed to shore up a nuclear plant. Dominion Energy Inc., which mounted a high-profile campaign to win higher revenue for its Millstone station, said it would "continue assessing our investments" in the state as a result.

With the exception of Illinois, supporters of state aid are similarly struggling to make headway in Ohio and Pennsylvania. Those with the most to lose—such as renewable energy providers and big electric customers—are pushing back in state legislatures, said Peter Bradford, a consultant who used to serve on the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. That's making it harder for states to come to the rescue of reactors grappling with plunging power prices.

"It is pretty difficult to get these things across a finish line," Kit Konolige, a Bloomberg Intelligence analyst based in New York, said by phone. "It's been resisted strongly, certainly in Ohio and Connecticut."

Reactor Shutdowns

At least five nuclear power plants have retired in the past five years, including Fort Calhoun in Nebraska, which closed in October. Those in favor of state subsidies say the carbon-free electricity provided by nuclear is needed to help states meet ambitious clean energy targets and preserve local jobs, while opponents counter that they distort the idea of a level playing field.

Dominion had backed a bill proposing that the state takes competitive bids for both nuclear and renewable power. "Continued inaction harms customers, the state's ability to meet its climate goals, and the state's economy," Ken Holt, a spokesman for Dominion's Millstone plant, said in a June 8 statement.

Opponents, including the state's largest electric utilities, had argued there was no evidence Millstone needed state aid, arguing that customers would end up saddled with higher bills as a

result.

Exelon Corp. said last month its Three Mile Island reactor near Harrisburg, Pa —site of the worst commercial nuclear accident in U.S. history in 1979—will close in 2019 after losing money for five years. No formal legislation has been introduced in the state.

Legislation introduced in Ohio in April to subsidize FirstEnergy Corp.'s reactors has yet to emerge from House or Senate committees. House hearings have been suspended and no vote is planned, Jennifer Young, a company spokeswoman, said by phone June 7.

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U.K. Seen Headed for Subsidy Free Power from Offshore Wind Farms

Posted June 08, 2017, 02:28 P.M. ET

By Jessica Shankleman

Britain may soon join Germany in harvesting subsidy-free electricity from offshore wind farms, giving government ministers new options in securing power supplies that don't pollute.

Until recently, turbines based at sea were among the most costly forms of power generation, requiring more than $100 a megawatt-hour, which is more than the cost of the latest nuclear power station in the U.K. Across Europe, costs have fallen rapidly in the last year and industry experts say the U.K. could see equally aggressive bidding this year.

In April, Germany accepted bids from developers to build offshore wind farms for an average of 4.40 euros ($4.93) a megawatt-hour, below the current market price for power meaning the facilities essentially will work without subsidy.

The British government soon will collect bids for a 290 million pound ($375 million) funding round for offshore-wind projects to be completed in the early 2020s, and industry officials are speculating how low developers might bid. While the headline cost reported in the U.K. won't be directly comparable with Germany's, it's likely to show progress toward the goal having the technology work without government support.

"If they don't do that, then they will not be competitive," Torben Hvid Larsen, chief technology officer at MHI Vestas Offshore Wind A/S, said in an interview in London June 8.

A spokesman for MHI Vestas said the company's official outlook is for the technology to still require some support from government, though the results will indicate a "trajectory toward subsidy-free pricing in future offshore wind auctions."

Winners are expected to be announced later this year, and as many as seven offshore wind farms may qualify to bid, according to Bloomberg New Energy Finance.

British projects have higher prices than those in Denmark or the Netherlands, where either utilities companies or the government absorb the costs of hooking the wind farms into the grid. In the U.K., developers must pay for site surveys and grid connections, making projects in Britain appear more expensive than those elsewhere, according to the trade association RenewableUK.

The amount of subsidy paid is the difference between the wholesale price of energy and the investment required to make a return on a renewable energy plant. To match Denmark, the Netherlands and excluding grid costs, the U.K. would need to see bids from 60 pounds to 69 pounds a megawatt-hour, said RenewableUK.

"For it to be shockingly cheap in the way that Denmark and the German auction have been, a price in the 60s would be amazing," said Emma Pinchbeck, executive director of RenewableUK. "My personal view is that a price in the 70s is not unlikley."

Prices for offshore wind in Europe have fallen dramatically in the last half decade and plunged 22 percent in 2016 alone, according to BNEF.

While the U.K. auction system operates differently to that in the U.K., calculations can be made that allow companies to compare costs, said MHI Vestas' Larsen.

MHI Vestas, a joint venture between Denmark's Vestas Wind Systems and Mitsubishi Heavy Industries, this week unveiled a 9.5-megawatt machine, the world's most powerful wind turbine, as part of its efforts to increase the size of turbines and reduce their costs.

Wind turbines account for about 40 percent of the cost of offshore projects, said Larsen. Bigger blades are at the heart of Germany's subsidy free bids. Dong has said it expects machines able to produce 13 to 15 megawatts each for its projects when they're due to be completed in 2025.

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German Renewables Peak as Country Bolsters Paris Commitment

Posted June 08, 2017, 7:54 A.M. ET

By Weixin Zha, Brian Parkin and Jesper Starn

Germany's latest wind and solar power record is unlikely to be the last as the nation deepens its commitment to a low-carbon economy in the face of U.S. President Donald Trump's decision to quit the Paris climate accord.

Clean power supplied two-thirds of Germany's power at one point June 7, with wind and solar generation exceeding the output of more than 50 nuclear reactors as warm, blustery weather crossed the country. In Britain, the same conditions meant wind, solar and nuclear generation exceeded the combined output of natural gas and coal for the first time.

Germany's power from renewables may jump to a record 35 percent or more of the nation's power consumption and will continue to add wind and solar installations through an auction system that has already resulted in subsidy-free green energy. German Chancellor Angela Merkel said last week she'll rally Europe and the world behind the Paris deal, calling it "irreversible" even after Trump's pullout.

"Germany is not taking its foot of the gas pedal in terms of renewable auctions," Elchin Mammadov, analyst at Bloomberg Intelligence, said by phone from London. "So we will see more records going forward."

Wind and solar output climbed to total 52 gigawatts at 1:30 p.m. Berlin time on June 7 when

sunshine was at its peak, according to grid company data provided by the European Energy Exchange. Consumption was 78 gigawatts at the same time. One gigawatt is enough to power 2 million European homes.

Power prices turned negative June 7, dropping to as low as minus 50 euros (-$57) a megawatt-hour between 3pm and 4pm, according to data from the Epex Spot SE power exchange in Paris. Day-ahead rates for June 7 dropped to the lowest for a working day in at least 17 years.

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Hydro Overpowers Energy Needs in China

Posted June 08, 2017, 11:29 A.M. ET

By Michael Standaert

Unused energy from hydropower facilities in the southwest China provinces of Yunnan and Sichuan in 2016 was more than the amount needed to power Hebei, the main province surrounding Beijing, for a month, raising questions about the need for future projects.

Rapid development of hydropower projects, a drop in energy demand, and lack of transmission infrastructure and policies to share energy sources with other provinces meant that Sichuan and Yunnan did not use 142 and 314 terawatt-hours, respectively, last year—a dramatic jump from the 26 and 50 terawatt-hours that went unused in 2013, China Communist Party newspaper People's Daily reported.

Idle capacity for facilities that supply electricity for industrial and residential use were built with massive investments and those resources could actually be more than what has been stated in some areas, Julian Kirchherr, a hydropower expert at the Copernicus Institute of Sustainable Development, Utrecht University, Netherlands, told Bloomberg BNA.

"Some sources I've talked to say that more than half of the hydropower capacity in Yunnan province is idle right now," Kirchherr said. "China has commissioned way too many hydropower [projects]. It commissioned, once again, more hydropower capacity than any other country in the world in 2016—around 11 gigawatts—and much of this will not be needed."

The provincial and central governments have not announced plans to deal with the unused power situation.

One solution for the extra energy, however, would be for Yunnan and Sichuan to sell idle capacity to other provinces, but "competing interests impede this," Kirchherr said.

"The national government wants a 'point-to-grid' solution, which means that electricity from a particular dam in Yunnan province is directly sold to a region in need," he said. "Prices for this solution were set by the National Development and Reform Commission and Yunnan provincial officials find these are way too low."

The provinces and the national development agency are now at a "deadlock," Kirchherr said, "which explains a lot of the idle capacity and what you need now is a compromise between Yunnan province and the national government."

Environmental Impacts

The hydropower issue is particularly problematic in Yunnan, where both old and new facilities built along the Lancang River, also known as the Mekong when it flows into Southeast Asia, waste energy and threaten biodiversity.

"Six megadams have been built on the Lancang River and there are at least another six which are being planned," Stephanie Jensen-Cormier, a program director with nonprofit International Rivers in Beijing, told Bloomberg BNA. "It is very important for China to consider the impacts on downstream neighbors as it finds ways to increase its generation of renewable energy."

One of the threatened rivers in China is the Nu River, known as the Salween in Southeast Asia, which is the last free-flowing major river in the country and a center of biodiversity, holding around 50 percent of China's animal species and more than 6,000 plant species.

Five large hydropower projects were slated to be built along the Nu just a few years ago, but the projects were put on hold this March when Yunnan provincial authorities suspended the project as China reevaluates balancing future energy needs against the possibility of establishing a national park along the river.

Overbuilding hydropower facilities and China's push to develop hydropower resources in Southeast Asia as part of its Belt and Road Initiative on trade and economic development also have had negative consequences for neighboring countries, where the major rivers provide primary drinking water, food, irrigation, and other resources for millions of people downstream.

Seven dam projects were constructed on the Irrawaddy River in northern Myanmar, where 90 percent of the electricity was supposed to go to Yunnan, but the province no longer has any need for the energy, Kirchherr said. In the meantime, food security downstream has been threatened as fish are caught up in the dam, and thousands of Burmese/residents have had to be resettled.

"China needs to cancel projects abroad whose electricity was supposed to be exported to China," he said.

China's Clean Energy Ambition Floats on Abandoned Coal Mine

Posted June 08, 2017, 8:13 A.M. ET

By Feifei Shen

China's ambitions to dominate new energy technologies are unfolding at the site of an abandoned coal mine about 300 miles northwest of Shanghai.

There, in Anhui province, Sungrow Power Supply Co. has built the world's largest floating solar farm with 166,000 panels on a lake created when a nearby mine collapsed. While not an entirely unique idea—similar facilities are working in Japan, the U.K. and Israel—the project's scale represents a step forward for China in shaping the future of energy.

President Xi Jinping's government this week is drawing attention to those efforts at a meeting of energy ministers from around the world that concludes June 8 in Beijing. With plans to spend $360 billion on renewable energy by 2020, China is seeking to appear as a global leader on the environment, marking a contrast with U.S. President Donald Trump's rebuke of the Paris Agreement on climate change.

"The Chinese are really investing in the research and development side of innovation," said Helen Clarkson, chief executive officer of The Climate Group, a non-governmental organization that works to promote clean energy technologies and policy.

While Trump has said repeatedly he wants to stimulate fossil fuels and especially coal, China is funding a series of ground-breaking projects that generate power without pollution. Whether with massive floating solar farms like the one in Anhui, sprawling wind farms or ambitious plans to develop geothermal reserves, the world's most-populous nation is asserting itself as a powerhouse of clean-energy technology.

Renewables Spending

In the northwestern province of Qinghai, Huanghe Hydropower Development Co. is planning a demonstration project to integrate power from hydro-electric dams with wind turbines and solar cells. Similarly, the Guoshen Group, a power plant operator, intends to build a project that will combine wind, solar and thermal power with energy storage in the northern region of Inner Mongolia.

Meanwhile, construction has begun on China's first large-scale effort to trap and store carbon dioxide emissions. The Yanchang Integrated Carbon Capture and Storage Project, Asia's first commercial carbon capture plant, is set to begin operating in 2018.

"Everybody has to become more sophisticated about their investment strategy," said Sophie Lu, head of China research at Bloomberg New Energy Finance. "Now it's all about innovation either in new technology or in a new application or a new business model."

China's efforts pit it against the U.S., which insists it can remain a hotbed of innovation in energy even though the president is slashing funds for start-ups in the industry and pulling out of the 2015 Paris accord. On his trip to Asia to represent Trump, U.S. Energy Secretary Rick Perry spoke forcefully of America's efforts to spur energy technology while also challenging China to take leadership on the issue.

"There is a lot of innovation out there, and it is gonna come, not all of the ways, but a lot of it will come from the United States," Perry told reporters in Tokyo. "Somehow or another, because we don't belong to this little club, you can't be innovative and drive technology and affect the climate. I just don't buy it."

Jobs Growth

The stakes are high for both nations. The clean-energy business employed 9.8 million people last year, up 1.1 percent from 2015, led by an expansion in solar photovoltaics, according to the International Renewable Energy Agency's annual report. Green jobs may reach 24 million worldwide in 2030 as more countries work to combat climate change, Irena said.

"China is a real driver in the money they invest in the diligence of their innovation," California Governor Jerry Brown said in a Bloomberg Television interview June 6. "I want California to partner with China in that endeavor. Otherwise we won't achieve our climate goals."

In Anhui, Sungrow's 40-megawatt solar farm in a district of Huainan city called Panji features panels fixed to floats on the surface of a lake that formed after the ground surrounding an old coal mine collapsed.

Floating Solar

Floating solar is spreading and getting bigger, led by projects in Asia and Europe.

Hong Kong-listed Xinyi Solar Holdings Ltd. completed a 20-megawatt floating solar farm last year in Huainan. On a reservoir outside Tokyo, Kyocera TCL Solar LLC has finished a 13.4-megawatt project, the biggest of its kind in Japan. Thames Water Utilities Ltd., the U.K.'s largest privately owned water supplier, operates Europe's largest floating solar farm on its Queen Elizabeth Reservoir reservoir near Heathrow airport.

By the end of September, Sungrow will complete more than 150 megawatts of new floating capacity in Huainan, said Hu Bing, an executive at Sungrow, the world's second-biggest photovoltaic inverter maker.

The Anhui project could yield 5 percent to 10 percent more power compared with a conventional solar plant because the panels are expected to be cooled as surface water evaporates, said Hu.

To be fair, China's energy innovations still have some way to go to catch up to the country's aspirations.

While China has 37 working nuclear reactors, none have been built without expertise from abroad. The country also hasn't produced an innovator with a profile similar to that of Tesla Inc., General Electric Co. or Vestas Wind Systems A/S.

The U.S. plans to keep its competitive edge "the same way we have historically," Perry said in Tokyo. "It's called innovation and technology."

—With assistance from Stephen Stapczynski and Chisaki Watanabe.

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Trump Said to Mull Combining Agencies Separated After Gulf Spill

Posted June 08, 2017, 7:55 A.M. ET

By Jennifer A. Dlouhy

After the 2010 Gulf oil spill, the Obama administration broke the scandal-plagued federal agency that policed offshore drilling into separate bureaus.

Now the Trump administration is considering putting it back together again.

The change, described by Interior Department officials and lobbyists familiar with the deliberations, would combine two agencies: one that enforces regulations on offshore drilling safety and another in charge of leasing offshore tracts. Keeping those roles separate was a key recommendation of a presidential commission that investigated the Deepwater Horizon blast that killed 11 men and sent oil gushing into the Gulf of Mexico for months.

Merging the bureaus could send a signal that Interior is easing off on enforcement, right as President Donald Trump expands areas available for offshore oil drilling, according to Bob Graham,

a former Florida senator who led the commission.

"I have heard no indication of why we're doing this," Graham said in an interview. "It's just seven years after this enormous disaster—and this was one of the key steps in at least mitigating the chances of a repetition."

Officials are still weighing the reorganization, according to the people, who declined to be identified discussing internal deliberations. Interior Department spokesmen didn't respond to requests to comment on the possible change.

For decades before the BP Plc oil spill, federal regulation of offshore energy development was handled by a single agency within the Department of Interior: the Minerals Management Service. Its biggest claim to fame was a wide-ranging ethics scandal during the administration of President George W. Bush that involved cocaine use, sexual misconduct and financial self-dealing by a handful of employees, which was documented in multiple probes.

The episode highlighted an uncomfortably cozy relationship between the oil and gas industry drilling offshore and the federal regulators who were supposed to keep a watch over them. Two years later, when BP's failed Macondo well blew out in the Gulf of Mexico, those concerns erupted anew.

Within weeks, with oil still gushing into the Gulf, the administration of President Barack Obama announced it was shuttering the MMS and carving it up into three agencies. Besides the leasing and enforcement bureaus, a third office would act as a piggy bank, collecting billions of dollars annually in royalties, rental payments and bonus bids tied to offshore energy development.

That last agency, the Office of Natural Resources Revenue, would be untouched by the organizational plans now under consideration by Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke. The two agencies that would be combined are the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement and the leasing-focused Bureau of Ocean Energy Management.

Zinke has said he's looking at reorganizing the entire Interior Department with an eye on empowering regional officials and improving collaboration across its agencies. That could involve creating regional hubs to coordinate Interior agencies with overlapping roles and missions that are at cross purposes.

The effort could allow energy companies to get quicker project approvals or, at least, a clear pathway to them.

"We are looking at reorganizing in maybe more of a joint model so industry and citizens when they want to do a project can have—I don't want to say certainty, but at least a path of how to get there," Zinke said at the Offshore Technology Conference last month. "You can know sooner in the process whether yes or no is appropriate and what is that investment you have to make."

Scott Angelle, the newly appointed head of the safety bureau, told reporters last week that he has not been told the two agencies will merge, but "everything is on the table" as part of the department-wide reorganization.

The inherent conflict within the Minerals Management Service was written on the walls of the former agency—literally. Donald Boesch, a marine scientist who served on the presidential spill commission, remembers a fact-finding mission to meet with environmental analysts and safety inspectors at a former MMS office in Louisiana. On the conference room wall, a huge chart illustrated the growth in revenue the agency had gleaned from offshore oil development. Other

graphs showed increasing oil and gas produced offshore.

"The metrics they had to deal with on a daily basis were all oriented toward expanding that activity and increasing production as fast as they could," said Boesch, now president of the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science. "That symbolically indicated that there was a strong conflict of interest in how this organization is run."

Recombining the agencies would revive their "inherently conflicting missions," said Senator Ed Markey, a Democrat from Massachusetts.

"Our coastal communities—and even the oil industry—can't afford a return to the bad old days of the safety cop and the leasing agent being the same person," Markey said in an e-mailed statement.

The since-divided bureaus have developed their own identities and missions. Environmental analysis has increased at the ocean energy bureau, while the safety agency expanded its oversight beyond oil and gas companies by penalizing offshore contractors for infractions.

Industry Reaction

Oil industry officials aren't exactly clamoring for the change.

After the creation of the two bureaus, there was confusion about which agency was in charge of which task. Oil companies didn't know where to file permit applications and where to file proposed exploration plans.

"We've found on the industry side that there's still some confusion of who does what," said Randall Luthi, a former MMS director who now leads the National Ocean Industries Association. And the longer the bureaus stay apart, the more stove-piped they become, he said. "If you're going to do it, now is probably a good time."

Still, the reorganization is such a major effort that it could take time away from other priorities, including rewriting Obama-era regulations governing offshore drilling, Luthi said.

"If you asked industry what is your top, No. 1 priority, I doubt it's the re-meshing" of these bureaus, he said.

—With assistance from Laura Blewitt.

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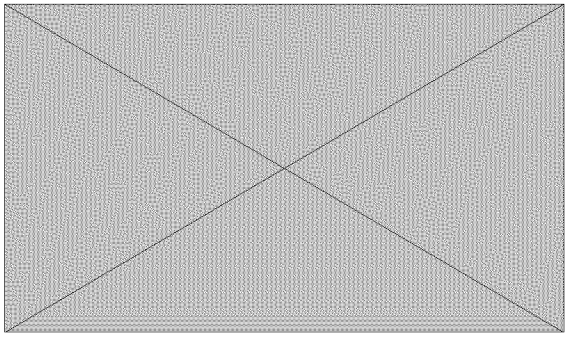
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Energy and Climate Report

To: Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
From: American Enterprise Institute
Sent: Mon 11/13/2017 11:02:15 AM
Subject: AEI Today: Balancing foreign investments and national security

Last week, the Senate released a bill reforming the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States

AEI's daily publication of independent research, insightful analysis, and scholarly debate



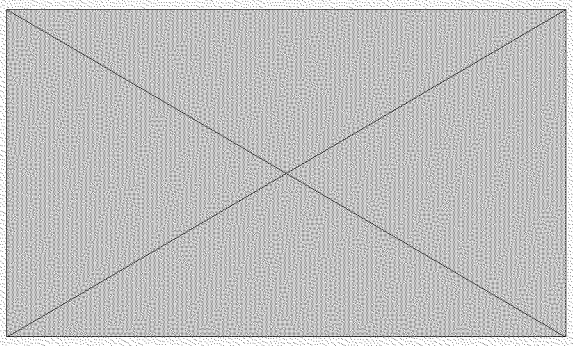
Reuters

Balancing foreign investments and national security

Derek Scissors | AEIdeas

Last week, the Senate released a bill reforming the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States (CFIUS). It offers improvements to the investment review process to better safeguard national security without discouraging foreign firms, harming investment, and costing jobs. There are two major hurdles to jump: CFIUS must be fully funded, and there must be a narrow,

practical sense of what is crucial for national security.

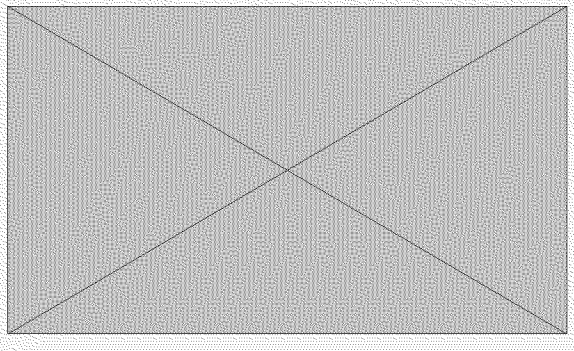


AEI

How the GOP tax plan affects retirement savings

Andrew G. Biggs | AEIdeas

Recently, congressional Republicans proposed changing the tax treatment for the 401(k) accounts that most Americans use to save for retirement. Instead of receiving a tax deduction on 401(k) contributions, the tax plan would have taxed these contributions but allowed withdrawals to be tax-free. Opposition to this was strong enough that President Trump came out against. Andrew Biggs takes a look at what impact this new paradigm will have.

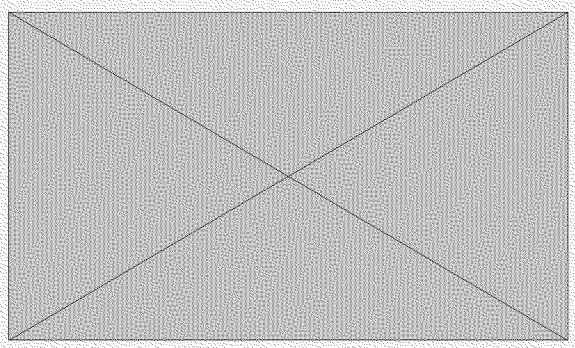


Reuters

Why the housing market will be just fine after tax reform

Alex Brill | AEIdeas

The prospect of major tax reform that broadens the tax base and lowers tax rates has the residential housing industry in panic mode. A study commissioned by the National Association of Realtors warns that comprehensive tax reform would result in an average drop in home values of 10 percent. But the reality is that the housing market will be fine.



AEI

Can state regulations go where federal ones do not?

Bronwyn Howell | AEIdeas

With the Federal Communications Commission revisiting the 2015 Open Internet Order, questions have swirled around what is next for internet regulation. One big question that remains is whether states may try to leverage their public utilities commissions to impose net neutrality obligations in lieu of light-touch regulation on the national scale.

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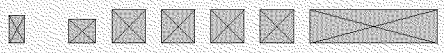
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From: POLITICO Pro Energy
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Subject: Morning Energy: World anxiously awaits Trump's final answer on Paris — One EPA vacancy with massive implications — Zinke staffs up

By Anthony Adragna | 05/30/2017 05:42 AM EDT

With help from Alex Guillén and Esther Whieldon

IT'S THE FINAL COUNTDOWN! President Donald Trump has built up the drama around whether the U.S. will stick with the landmark 2015 Paris climate change agreement as if it's an episode of "The Apprentice." He refused to endorse the pact at last weekend's G-7 gathering in Sicily, and tweeted that he would make a final call this week. Secretary of Defense Jim Mattis said on "Face the Nation" Sunday that the president remained "wide open" on the agreement, while Axios reported Trump has told confidants that he plans to withdraw from the pact, citing three people directly familiar with his thinking. Abandoning Paris would put the U.S. alone with Syria and Nicaragua as the only countries on Earth who did not officially join the deal.

Trump already sent a signal to the international community by refusing to join Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan and the U.K. in affirming a "strong commitment" to the Paris agreement in the G-7 statement released Saturday. "The United States of America is in the process of reviewing its policies on climate change and on the Paris Agreement and thus is not in a position to join the consensus on these topics," the leaders wrote. "Understanding this process, the Heads of State and of Government of Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, and the United Kingdom and the Presidents of the European Council and of the European Commission reaffirm their strong commitment to swiftly implement the Paris Agreement, as previously stated at the Ise-Shima Summit."

Don't forget: Even if Trump decides to stay a part of the Paris agreement, he has made it abundantly clear that cutting greenhouse gas emissions will not be a priority for the federal government, as he seeks to revise or eliminate virtually every climate-motivated regulation former President Barack Obama put in place. And even the relative moderates within the White House have long acknowledged that the U.S. would only stick with the pact if they could get a better deal for U.S. coal and oil companies.

IMMINENT EPA SCIENCE VACANCY HAS HIGH SIGNIFICANCE: Amid the worries that EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt is sidelining independent scientific advisers, he apparently has done nothing to make sure that someone will be in charge of EPA's Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee after the term its current chair ends in September, Pro's Eric Wolff reports. Filling that CASAC post is a months-long process, and Pruitt already is getting heat for not reupping several members of the Board of Scientific Counselors, which advises the agency on research matters. Unlike that advisory board, which was established by an earlier administrator, Congress set strict requirements for the types of experts who must serve on CASAC, and charged the committee with evaluating the health risks of key air pollutants to guide EPA's regulations. Without Chair Ana Diez Roux of CASAC, who fills two roles required under the Clean Air Act, the panel "cannot function" in the words of one EPA source. "That process needs to have already

started," the source said.

EPA declined to offer details on the CASAC nomination process, but an agency spokeswoman told Eric "there will be a concerted effort to assure diverse scientific perspectives on advisory panels and to look for additional ways to strengthen scientific review at EPA."

It's not just CASAC: Reshaping the scientific advisory boards has long-been atop the wish list of congressional Republicans and industry groups. Many now see an opportunities to get more industry-friendly perspectives onto panels like the Science Advisory Board and BOSC. "Past advisory groups have had too much representation from individuals who are experts in very narrow fields of study, without experience in integrating across multiple lines of evidence," Michael Honeycutt, chief toxicologist for the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality who unsuccessfully pushed to get onto CASAC last year, told Eric.

WELCOME TO TUESDAY! Hope everyone had a safe and fun Memorial Day break! I'm your host Anthony Adragna, and I was honored to take part in the marriage of two dear friends in Birmingham, Ala.: Huddle host Heather Caygle and Pro Tax's Aaron Lorenzo. Montana state senator Pat Connell was first to identify that Adam Clayton Powell won a Supreme Court case to regain his congressional seat. For today: What congressman, colorfully nicknamed "Pork Barrel," was forced to resign for illegally selling alcohol during Prohibition? Send your tips, energy gossip and comments to aadragna@politico.com, or follow us on Twitter @AnthonyAdragna, @Morning_Energy, and @POLITICOPro.

BEARS EARS COMMENTS ABOUND: More than 120,000 people weighed in on the Trump administration's review of recent monument designations by Friday's deadline to comment on the future of the Bears Ears National Monument in Utah. Most of the comments were from individuals, although a number of industry and environmental groups, native tribes and lawmakers sounded off as well. Zinke has until June 10 to make a recommendation on Bears Ears. Comments on the review of other monuments designated since 1996 will be open through July 10.

Utah's Republican congressional delegation **reiterated** its call for Trump to rescind the Bears Ears monument, saying the state "has repeatedly fallen victim to overreaching use of the Antiquities Act -- a law that has become a tool of political advocacy rather than public interest." The Utah Mining Association said any protections applied to Bears Ears "should be kept to the smallest area possible" to allow BLM to "to fulfill their statutory mandate to manage federal public lands for multiple use."

Several tribes that initially proposed creating the monument, including the Hopi, Navajo and Ute, defended the need for the designation. "It would be a travesty to leave this landscape vulnerable to uranium and fossil-fuel mining, and excessive off-road vehicle use. Additionally, there has been ghastly looting and grave robbing that continues to this day," they said. The Sierra Club argued Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke's review "appears designed to reach a predetermined outcome, namely the reduction or elimination of the Bears Ears National Monument designation." Zinke has insisted he is keeping an open mind in the process.

ZINKE'S IN ALASKA! Zinke is in the midst of a nearly week-long trip around the Arctic Circle and he's in Anchorage today for a slew of events. They include a BBQ meet and greet with agency employees (followed by an all-hands meeting) and an Alaska Federation of Natives meeting. He visited Denali National Park on Memorial Day and also participated in a Byers Lake event on Sunday with Senate Energy Chairman Lisa Murkowski (pic).

And that comes after previous stops on the trip included Norway and Greenland. Senators participating in that delegation included Sens. John Cornyn, John Barrasso, Steve Daines and Heidi Heitkamp. Some pics of the crew in Alaska checking out pipelines here.

INTERIOR STAFFS UP! Zinke formally announced the addition of 19 new staffers to Interior on Friday, Pro's Esther Whieldon reports. Newly announced hires include Zinke's chief of staff, Scott Hommel, who served the same job in Zinke's congressional office; Natalie Davis, who will be special assistant to the secretary; Timothy Williams, Interior's new deputy director of external affairs; and Jason Funes, an assistant in the office of external affairs. A full list of the new people is available here.

MANCHIN VOWS TO 'EDUCATE' COHN ON COAL: Sen. Joe Manchin said he didn't know "what the hell happened" with Trump's top economic adviser Gary Cohn amid skeptical comments about the future of coal from Cohn in Europe last week. "Coal is much needed and it's going to continue to be," Manchin told Breitbart News.

MEETING SOUGHT OVER PASSAIC CLEANUP: Democratic Sens. Robert Menendez, Cory Booker and Chris Coons are questioning whether Maxus Energy Corporation, a wholly owned subsidiary of Argentina's state-owned oil company YPF, filed bankruptcy as part of a strategy to avoid cleaning up the Passaic River. "After enduring decades of contamination, the community surrounding the Passaic River deserves full and comprehensive remediation and each responsible party should be held accountable to pay for it without further delay," they wrote. The senators sought a meeting to further discuss the issue.

GREENS REVIVE COAL LEASING LAWSUIT: Environmental groups on Friday revived a lawsuit in the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals over the Interior Department's coal leasing program. The Western Organization of Resource Councils and Friends of the Earth in 2015 sued in an attempt to force Interior to update its environmental review of the program to include climate change-related effects. The suit was paused more than a year ago when the Obama administration issued its leasing moratorium, but the groups say the Trump administration's lifting of the moratorium means the lawsuit can now continue. Interior does not object to restarting the case, according to the green groups' filing. Zinke has continued with rest of the Obama-era review, but the suit could help pressure Interior to go further in its climate-related analysis than it might otherwise.

HALF-A-BENJAMIN FOR A TON OF CARBON: A team of leading economists has concluded that meeting the world's goals for curbing global warming requires a carbon dioxide price of $40-80 per ton by 2020 and $50-100 by 2030, POLITICO Europe's Sara Stefanini reports. The High-Level Commission on Carbon Prices was created at the United Nations' climate summit in Marrakech last year, and is made up of 13 economists from nine developed

and developing countries.

SCHUMER HITS DEFENSE OVER CLEANUP LAG: Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer hit the Defense Department for delaying cleaning up waste at Stewart Air National Guard base, POLITICO New York's Marie J. French reports. That base contaminated the water supply of Newburgh, New York, forcing the city of 30,000 switch water sources and residents to get blood tests for PFOS.

THIS IS A FUN RECESS TRIP! Rep. Mike Quigley, vice chairman of the Sustainable Energy & Environment Coalition, heads to Rocky Mountain National Park today through Thursday where he'll meet with climate change researchers and National Park Service officials for a firsthand look at impacts. Your hashtag to follow along: #RepInTheRockies.

QUICK HITS

— Tucson Electric Power halts energy-efficiency rebate for businesses. Tucson.com.

— EPA's Pruitt: Agency is 'doing what it's supposed to do' at Osage pollution site. Tulsa World.

— From coal to solar, India's energy landscape is almost too hard to keep up with. Quartz.

— Standing Rock film festival centers around pipeline protest. AP.

— Coal trains fewer as Appalachian railroads keep rolling. Denver Post.

— U.S. may put emergency tariffs on solar imports. Reuters.

— U.S. aid agency under scrutiny for loans in Chile. Reuters.

HAPPENING THIS WEEK

TUESDAY

12:30 p.m. — "The Political Economy of Forests: REDD+, Good Governance and Land Rights," World Resources Institute, 10 G Street NE, Suite 800

WEDNESDAY

5:30 p.m. — Women's Council on Energy and the Environment May Happy Hour, Penn Commons, 700 6th Street, NW

THURSDAY

6:00 p.m. — "Energy Infrastructure and Cybersecurity," Leaders in Energy, 3100 Clarendon Blvd #200

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https://www.politicopro.com/tipsheets/morning-energy/2017/05/world-anxiously-awaits-trumps-final-answer-on-paris-023046

Stories from POLITICO Pro

Leaders issue G7 declaration with US a holdout on climate change Back

By David M. Herszenhorn | 05/27/2017 10:47 AM EDT

TAORMINA, Sicily — Leaders of the G7, the world's most exclusive geopolitical club, issued their 2017 declaration Saturday, with U.S. President Donald Trump refusing to join his counterparts in pledging commitment to the 195-nation Paris accord on climate change.

The statement also included language on trade, which appeared to be a compromise between the new U.S. administration's skepticism about some current trade deals and the more pro-free trade views of other G7 members. On Russia, Trump went along with the group, maintaining a hard line on the conflict in Ukraine.

Trump, posting on Twitter, said he would make a decision on whether the U.S. would remain in the climate change accord next week, after he returns to Washington. The other six members of the G7 — Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan and the U.K. — reaffirmed "strong commitment" to the agreement, which Barack Obama signed in 2015.

While the declaration included remarkable language, highlighting that the U.S. stood apart, the other allies expressed some relief that Trump had not outright rejected the accord and said they remained hopeful he would come around

"The United States of America is in the process of reviewing its policies on climate change and on the Paris Agreement and thus is not in a position to join the consensus on these topics," the leaders wrote. "Understanding this process, the Heads of State and of Government of Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, and the United Kingdom and the Presidents of the European Council and of the European Commission reaffirm their strong commitment to swiftly implement the Paris Agreement, as previously stated at the Ise-Shima Summit."

The declaration did include what appeared to be some softening of resistance by the U.S. on multilateral trade. Earlier this year, the U.S. had blocked traditional language in the G20 declaration about fighting "all forms" of protectionism.

While the "all forms" construction, which appeared in last year's G7 statement, was not revived, the new communique stated: "We reiterate our commitment to keep our markets open and to fight protectionism, while standing firm against all unfair trade practices."

The declaration, however, also included new language that acknowledged some drawbacks to

trade. "At the same time, we acknowledge that trade has not always worked to the benefit of everyone. For this reason, we commit to adopting appropriate policies so that all firms and citizens can make the most of opportunities offered by the global economy."

On another crucial topic, the declaration retained language previously adopted by the G7 warning Russia that it could face additional punishment if the situation worsens in Ukraine.

While calling for Russia and Ukraine to work to implement the Minsk 2 peace agreement, the G7 leaders declared, "We also stand ready to take further restrictive measures in order to increase costs on Russia should its actions so require."

This article originally appeared on POLITICO Europe on May 13, 2017.

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Trump advisers want a better deal on Paris Back

By Andrew Restuccia and Josh Dawsey | 04/27/2017 07:34 PM EDT

President Donald Trump's senior advisers were unable to agree on whether the United States should remain in the Paris climate change pact during a meeting Thursday afternoon at the White House, two administration officials told POLITICO.

But those who attended the meeting said there is a growing consensus among the advisers that the United States can't stay in the deal unless it negotiates new terms.

While it would be difficult, if not impossible, to renegotiate the Paris deal that won the backing of nearly 200 nations in 2015, Trump administration officials are increasingly discussing leveraging the uncertainty over the U.S. position to boost the White House's policy priorities in future discussions.

If the administration can't extract new benefits for the U.S., Trump is willing to pull out of the deal altogether, officials said.

"We're trying to decide whether we are going to stay and make changes or leave. But we're not going to just stay," one official said.

The officials who attended Thursday's meeting did not reach a consensus recommendation to deliver to Trump, but they're expected to meet again to discuss the issue.

Trump's advisers are divided over what to do about the agreement that was a major policy priority for former President Barack Obama. Chief strategist Steve Bannon and EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt are in favor of withdrawing. Others, like senior adviser Jared Kushner,

support staying in the deal.

Those who support staying have quietly been trying to win backing from energy companies, arguing that the industry will have a better chance of drawing international support to develop technology to reduce emissions from the use of coal. And the officials have said they plan to weaken Obama's emissions reduction target.

A meeting of G-7 energy ministers — including Energy Secretary Rick Perry — in Rome earlier this month erupted in a dispute when Trump administration officials pushed to include stronger pro-coal, pro-nuclear language in a proposed joint statement on energy policy and declined to include references to the Paris climate agreement.

To view online click here.

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Trump advisers want concessions for coal if U.S. stays in climate pact Back

By Andrew Restuccia | 03/17/2017 06:00 PM EDT

Trump administration officials have told lobbyists and European diplomats that the U.S. won't stay in the nearly 200-nation Paris climate change agreement unless it can secure wins for the fossil fuel industry, according to three people familiar with the discussions.

In a series of recent conversations with industry groups and European officials, Trump advisers have said the White House decision on the Paris deal could hinge on international willingness to come up with a strategy to commercialize and deploy technologies that will reduce emissions from fossil fuels.

That may not sit well with Democrats and environmental groups, who have long argued against spending billions of dollars to reduce emissions from coal-fired power plants when the same money could help speed the transition to wind and solar power. But such a deal could avoid the enormous disruption that would result if the United States, the world's second-largest greenhouse gas emitter, walked away from the most comprehensive international agreement ever crafted on global warming.

Administration officials who want to stay in the 2015 Paris agreement believe that creating a future pathway for fuels like coal is the only way to win support from conservative and industry groups that want the U.S. to withdraw from the accord. And some fossil fuel supporters are beginning to come around, despite their overall skepticism toward the climate pact.

"If the world can't go on without us in the Paris accord — that's a bit of an overstatement, but to illustrate my point — then perhaps we ought to be in it," said Rep. Kevin Cramer (R-N.D.), a pro-oil lawmaker who advised the Trump campaign on energy issues. "And if we have that much influence, perhaps we have enough influence to moderate it."

In recent weeks, administration officials have met with many of the country's major energy companies and trade groups. Those who have talked to the administration include representatives from the American Petroleum Institute, as well as the Independent Petroleum Association of America, ConocoPhillips and coal company Peabody Energy, among others, according to people familiar with the meetings.

A White House spokeswoman declined to comment, saying the administration did not yet have any announcements to make regarding the Paris agreement.

Whether the United States will pull out of the Paris agreement remains an open question in the White House, despite Trump's campaign pledge to pull out of the deal.

White House senior adviser Jared Kushner and Trump's daughter Ivanka are said to advocate staying in the agreement, and several Trump administration officials are pushing a plan that would have the U.S. remain in the pact while weakening former President Barack Obama's targets for reducing the nation's greenhouse gas emissions. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson is also said to support staying in the agreement, though much of the internal discussion about the issue has so far been among midlevel aides at the White House.

White House strategist Steve Bannon is seen as Trump World's biggest opponent of the Paris deal, but officials said he has not yet engaged on the issue at a granular level. Bannon and other opponents of the agreement could kill the simmering effort to stay in the Paris deal, making the ongoing conversations with diplomats and lobbyists moot.

Republicans and some Democrats have long advocated policies to support developing technology to capture carbon emissions from coal and other fossil fuels. And Cramer said the U.S. has leverage to "moderate" the Paris agreement by winning greater support for technology to slash emissions from coal.

"If you don't remove fuels, if you don't dismiss certain technologies, if you let the innovators work in a more open environment and we set realistic standards, they'll meet them," he said in an interview.

But so far, those methods to capture carbon from coal have proved to be expensive and difficult to commercialize on a wide scale.

Environmental activists are also likely to view the administration's discussions about Paris with deep suspicion, pointing to the president's vocal skepticism of climate science and his proposal to gut funding for climate programs at the Environmental Protection Agency and the State Department.

European officials say they are keeping an open mind about the administration's desire to boost technology to reduce emissions from fossil fuels — in part because they're eager to keep the United States in the Paris agreement. The European Commission favors carbon-capture technology, but, as in the United States, the technology has so far struggled to take off in Europe.

But Trump's efforts to undo Obama's climate policies, such as an executive order expected next week to begin the process of rewriting landmark regulations for power plants, worry many international officials.

Some foreign officials are already questioning the value of negotiating with United States to stay in Paris if Trump isn't committed to addressing climate change at home.

Maros Sefcovic, the European Commission's vice president for energy, met earlier this month in Washington with several Trump administration officials, including National Economic Council Director Gary Cohn; Kenneth Juster, an international economic affairs adviser to the president; and George David Banks, a White House adviser on international energy and environmental issues.

"They are looking at ways to bring the business aspects to the assessment of climate change policies, with an accent on technological advancement," Sefcovic told reporters after returning to Brussels, adding that technology to catch and store or use carbon emissions will probably be a priority for the U.S.

Nick Juliano and Sara Stefanini contributed to this report.

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EPA science fight to flare up over looming vacancy Back

By Eric Wolff | 05/30/2017 05:01 AM EDT

An upcoming vacancy on the EPA scientific committee that gauges the health risks of air pollution is raising fears among health advocates and green groups that Administrator Scott Pruitt's plans to reshuffle the agency's advisers could weaken its upcoming rules.

EPA sources say that the agency is months behind schedule in finding a replacement for Dr. Ana Diez Roux, the chair of the seven-member Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee, who will exit the board when her term expires on Sept. 30. As a medical doctor and member of the National Academy of Sciences, Diez Roux fulfills two of the requirements that the Clean Air Act mandates for CASAC, and her departure will prevent it from issuing recommendations on soot and sulfur oxides that the agency will soon use to decide new regulations.

Earlier this month, Pruitt alarmed scientists and green groups when he opted to remove half of the members of EPA's Board of Scientific Counselors, a part of the administrator's pledge to open up EPA's advisory bodies to more business-friendly voices.

But unlike BOSC, which was created at the discretion of the administrator and plays mostly an

advisory role, Congress created CASAC when it amended the Clean Air Act in 1977 and specified the types of experts it must include. The committee is charged with reviewing and finalizing health recommendations for six key air pollutants, and its guidance sets the direction that must be followed by the agency when crafting new regulations.

When Diez Roux's term expires, the committee "cannot function," one EPA source said.

Terry Yosie, a former head of the EPA office that manages its science committees, said he has been told by EPA staff that Pruitt has a draft notice calling for new CASAC nominations on his desk, but he hasn't yet issued it. EPA did not respond to a request to confirm this information.

Yosie, who now runs the nonprofit World Environment Center, said the agency could get slots filled on time, but an EPA source said it would require "a significant deviation" from the agency's usual monthslong process of internal review and public input.

"That process needs to have already started," the source said.

EPA declined to offer details on the CASAC nomination process, but an agency spokeswoman said "there will be a concerted effort to assure diverse scientific perspectives on advisory panels and to look for additional ways to strengthen scientific review at EPA."

After news that EPA would not extend members of BOSC to a second term, EPA spokesman J.P. Freire told The New York Times that Pruitt's aim was that the board should have people "who understand the impact of regulations on the regulated community."

Republicans and industry groups have long accused EPA scientists of having an anti-industry bias and of concealing the data they use to draw conclusions. The Republican-run House Science Committee has twice advanced legislation that would force science committees to only use data that is publicly available.

And efforts by companies and previous Republican administrations to weaken health rules for pollutants given priority under the Clean Air Act — soot, smog, lead, carbon monoxide, nitrogen oxide, and sulfur oxide — have been repeatedly shot down by the courts. In 2009, the D.C. Circuit overturned a standard set by President George W. Bush's EPA for soot levels because it failed to follow the advice provided by CASAC.

That has turned CASAC into a major target for groups seeking to ease their regulatory burden.

"It provides a clear political motivation to stack the Clean Air Science Advisory Committee with industry-friendly members that will not apply the current state of medical science to protect Americans as the law requires," said John Walke, director of the Clean Air Project for the Natural Resources Defense Council.

At the same time that CASAC is hanging in limbo, the EPA has yet to issue a call for nominations for 15 members of the Science Advisory Board, another body created by statute. The board has 47 total members, nine of whom, including their chair, will be completing their

second and final term, and six of whom are finishing their first term. The board has a broader mandate for advising the administrator, and the CASAC chair is a member.

EPA has historically opened up the nomination process for advisory committees in April. Last year it opened nominations for a seat on CASAC on April 6 for the position that was ultimately filled by appointing Donna Kenski, an analyst for the Lake Michigan Air Directors Consortium. Emails from EPA obtained under the Freedom of Information Act by the blog junkscience.org show that Kenski didn't receive her invitation until Oct. 6, days after her term was to begin.

Kenski was selected despite a campaign by Michael Honeycutt, chief toxicologist for the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, to get on the committee. Honeycutt, who regularly impugned EPA's recommendations on everything from particulate matter to ozone, wrote to over 100 organizations and law firms to ask them to contact EPA and support his selection to CASAC, according to the Texas Observer.

"I hope that Administrator Pruitt better balances these advisory groups in terms of scientific expertise and practical experience that has been missing in the past," Honeycutt said in a statement to POLITICO. "Past advisory groups have had too much representation from individuals who are experts in very narrow fields of study, without experience in integrating across multiple lines of evidence."

The long selection process can be common. Peter Thorne, chairman of the SAB and head of the Occupational and Environmental Health Department at the University of Iowa College of Public Health, said he didn't get his invitation until early November or late October. He's concerned about replacing all people leaving the board.

"It's a very deliberative process to come up with members who have all the requisite expertise to address the things that come before us," he said. "I would be concerned we could end up without sufficient strength in all those areas if we are unable to replace departing members."

The agency may already be signaling a willingness to ignore previous norms. Last week, it shortened the nomination process to replace BOSC members by three weeks.

House Science Chairman Lamar Smith (R-Texas) is content to let the agency work through its process.

"Given the previous administration's close relationship with activist groups, it will take time to ensure a diversity of applicants are considered," he said in a statement.

Meanwhile, members of the committees are themselves jittery. Thorne said he's taking a "wait and see" view on how Pruitt will deal with open seats on the committees. Ron Wyzga, a senior technical executive at the Electric Power Research Institute and one of the seven CASAC members, started a new term on the committee last year. But he's worried about the signal the agency sent in its handling of decision not to renew terms for BOSC members.

"It's kind of weird," he said. "The thing is, people had received appointment letters, then they

[EPA] rescinded them. It struck me as duplicitous. People are willing to do some service to the government, and they're suddenly told, 'We don't want you any more.' It's an awkward situation."

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Interior names more beachheads to key jobs Back

By Esther Whieldon | 05/26/2017 04:23 PM EDT

The Interior Department today announced it would give permanent roles to many members of the Trump administration's beachhead team and bring several new people into the agency.

In total, Interior announced 19 new hires, several of which have been previously reported. Among them was Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke's chief of staff, Scott Hommel, who served the same job in Zinke's congressional office, and Lori Mashburn, a former Heritage Foundation staffer who was named Interior's White House liaison.

New hires announced today include several members of Trump's presidential campaign, including Natalie Davis, who will be special assistant to the secretary; Timothy Williams, Interior's new deputy director of external affairs; and Jason Funes, an assistant in the office of external affairs.

The full list from the Interior Department is here.

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By Lauren Gardner | 06/19/2017 10:00 AM EDT

With help from Brianna Gurciullo

AIR (TRAFFIC CONTROL) TEMPERATURE: A bill to revamp the FAA's air traffic control functions could materialize as soon as this week. Rep. Sam Graves (R-Mo.), a noted general aviation booster and House Transportation chairman-hopeful, has openly signaled he's trying to find a way to get to "yes" with current Chairman Bill Shuster - and told MT last week he's "optimistic" about prospects. Of course, the pressure's on for Graves. He wants to lead the committee once Shuster is term-limited from the post next Congress, and he already bucked Shuster once on his marquee issue by voting against last year's bill. With President Donald Trump and now House GOP leadership on board with at least the broad concept, it's becoming increasingly difficult for members like Graves who want to move up the ladder to remain a hard "no."

That being said: Graves has maintained all along that he has to feel like the general aviation community is "protected" under any new regime in order to win his support. General aviation groups' main concerns are pushing back any new user fees, and the powers and leadership of the board overseeing the new corporation. Pros know that, under Shuster's 2016 bill, private turbine aircraft were exempt from any user fee charges - but that wasn't enough to win support of groups like the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association. And the corporation's board of directors would have had two seats for GA interests, compared to four for the major commercial airlines. (Keep in mind the Trump administration's "principles" for an ATC overhaul would grant just one seat to general aviation, and two for airlines.) "What's being proposed [by the White House] is just the president's proposal," Graves told us after the committee's hearing the other week on FAA reauthorization. "What the House does in committee is going to be totally different."

How so? The makeup of the board seems ripe for tweaking, given the flak Shuster took last year for the airlines' dominance on it and the administration's suggestions. But any tinkering risks irking groups who were behind that earlier version and who may not be so keen to see competing interests get more goodies. That's particularly the case with the air traffic controllers' union, which has been silent on how it views the White House principles, so far. Then there's the tricky issue of fees. Any whiff of user fees for any segment of general aviation is likely to get a stiff arm. But can proponents stomach carving out more exemptions for GA planes, one of the major issues that consumed lawmakers trying to reauthorize the FAA a decade ago (remember Edna)? And there's the whole issue of "access" and what it means for those smaller planes to have it. Those are the main issues we're watching.

Hot take(off): Anytime lawmakers contemplate major legislation, they have to manage multiple constituencies clamoring to protect their interests (like this little idea called "tax reform"). Most of those bills that make it to a president's desk don't please everybody, but the lead-up is always

a delicate balancing act. This one is no different. And while dynamics in the House appear to be shifting some (all while senior GOP appropriators continue to beat drums against it), the Senate is a totally different animal.

WELCOME TO MONDAY: Thanks for tuning in to POLITICO's Morning Transportation, your daily tipsheet on all things trains, planes, automobiles and ports. Lauren and Tanya are sharing MT duties, so please send us tips, feedback and lyrics: tsnyder@politico.com or @TSnyderDC and lgardner@politico.com or @Gardner_LM.

"I wanna be your vacuum cleaner / Breathing in your dust / I wanna be your Ford Cortina / I won't ever rust."

Want to keep up with MT's song picks? We only need five more followers to hit 100 on our Spotify playlist - get listening!

SPEAKING OF FAA: More than 100 CEOs of various-sized businesses - many of whom are pilots themselves - are sending letters to House and Senate leaders today opposing the ATC spinoff. The executives include big names - like Continental Resources' Harold Hamm and Hewlett-Packard's Dion Weisler - alongside the heads of smaller companies that use planes to conduct business. "We stand by the belief and promise from the federal government to all Americans that our nation's airspace belongs to the public, and every person, business and community should have fair and equitable access, not just a few special interests in select cities and metropolitan areas," they wrote.

ICYMI: From Sunday's edition of Playbook - "Speaker Paul Ryan spent the weekend at the Homestead in Virginia for his annual 'Team Ryan' summer outing. His message to K Streeters and donors: the Republican agenda is on track. The Wisconsin Republican laid out his preferred timeline for Obamacare repeal bill, saying that it will be done by mid-summer and tax reform will be completed by the end of the year. ... Ryan also was bullish on infrastructure, telling the group that a series of infrastructure bills will be passed by the end of the year."

** **A message from Delta Air Lines:** Delta is committed to raising the standard of air travel. This commitment includes a continued investment in all 80,000 of their employees globally. Learn more at delta.com/dca **

THE WEEK AHEAD:

Tuesday - The Information Technology and Innovation Foundation will host a discussion with the German Embassy on policy and commercial issues around autonomous vehicles.

Wednesday - Former Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood, plus Reps. Marsha Blackburn (R-Tenn.) and John Delaney (D-Md.), will speak at a Bloomberg Government event focused on innovations for America's infrastructure. The Senate Commerce Committee will hold a hearing on David P. Pekoske, the Trump administration's nominee to lead TSA. Later that day, the committee's Space, Science, and Competitiveness panel will convene a hearing on partnerships between commercial space companies and the federal government.

Thursday - A bipartisan, bicameral group of lawmakers will hold the inaugural Capitol Hill National Security Forum to hash out ideas on how to improve U.S. defenses here and overseas. The House Transportation Committee will hold a hearing on passenger rail service.

LIES, DAMNED LIES AND STATISTICS? The Partnership for Open and Fair Skies has taken issue with a report from the U.S. Travel Association saying that last year Gulf airlines "brought nearly 1.7 million additional visitors to the U.S." The partnership - which accuses Qatar Airways, Emirates Airline and Etihad Airways of collecting large state subsidies, making them unfair business competitors - said Friday that the report's conclusions "are based on flawed assumptions that the Gulf carriers are creating new passenger demand, when in reality they are diverting passengers from U.S. airlines."

P3 TALES: The New York Times took a deep dive Friday into other countries' infrastructure spending approaches, comparing India's embrace of public-private partnerships to China's aggressive government investment. Take it away, Gray Lady: "In India, politically connected firms have captured contracts on the strength of relationships with officialdom, yielding defective engineering at bloated prices. ... By contrast, China has engineered one of the most effective economic transformations in modern history in part through relentless investment in infrastructure, traditionally financed and overseen by an unabashedly powerful state. China illustrates both the benefits and perils of state domination. ... The Trump plan was heralded as a way to lift America's sagging infrastructure while spurring growth. But it risks yielding India-like problems while failing to produce China's economic benefits."

SPOTLIGHT ON PORT TRUCKERS: A USA Today investigation published Friday found that southern California port trucking companies have compelled drivers to finance their trucks in a way that let their employers use the debt they amassed "as leverage to extract forced labor and trap drivers in jobs that left them destitute." The story details evidence suggesting port truckers in the state - where countless products manufactured in Asia first enter the country on their way to major retailers - regularly worked more hours than the 14-hour federal limit (of which driving time is capped at 11 hours) that triggers a minimum 10-hour rest period.

LOBBYING UPDATE: Baker & Hostetler registered to lobby for Global Automakers on "policy issues related to international trade and tax reform." And advocacy group Engage Cuba retained the same lobbyists as it pushes to stop the United States' embargo against the island nation.

THE AUTOBAHN:

- "Van hits pedestrians in north London." CNN.

- "Elaine Chao urges USMMA graduates to be 'principled leaders.'" Newsday.

- "Why Uber Might Have to Fire Travis Kalanick." Vanity Fair.

- "Md. lawmakers have plan to remake Metro and let each jurisdiction decide how to pay for it."

The Washington Post.

- "The Car Was Repossessed, but the Debt Remains." The New York Times.

THE COUNTDOWN: DOT appropriations run out in 104 days. The FAA reauthorization expires in 104 days. Highway and transit policy is up for renewal in 1,200 days.

** **A message from Delta Air Lines:** Delta believes that doing right by employees is essential to creating an exceptional customer experience. That's why Delta has an industry-leading employee wide profit-sharing program and has increased employee pay by 40% since 2008. Because happier employees lead to happier customers. Learn more at delta.com/dca **

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May 25, 2017

Latest News

Pruitt Hedges On Future Utility GHG Rules Even As EPA Readies CPP Repeal

EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt is continuing to hedge about whether and how precisely the agency plans to address greenhouse gases (GHG) from existing power plants after it rescinds the Clean Power Plan (CPP), even as reports indicate the agency is poised to float a plan for repealing the Obama-era rule.

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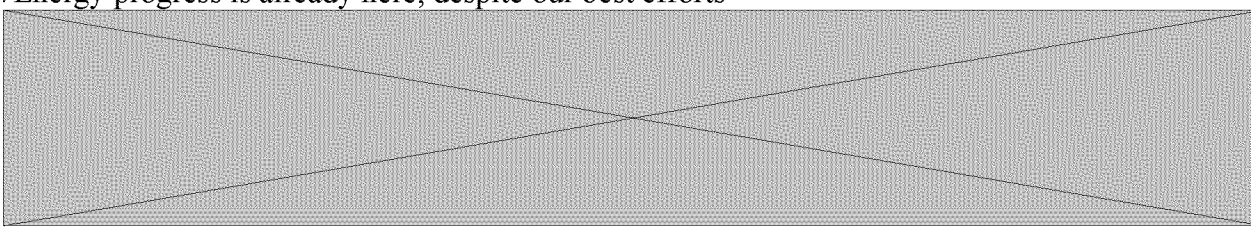
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To: Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
From: American Enterprise Institute
Sent: Tue 6/13/2017 10:07:31 AM
Subject: AEI Today: Energy progress is already here, despite our best efforts

. Energy progress is already here, despite our best efforts



AEI's daily publication of independent research, insightful analysis, and scholarly debate

Twenty20

Energy progress is already here, despite our best efforts

Mark J. Perry | US News & World Report

Last year, emissions from electric power fell to their lowest level in nearly 30 years. At the current pace of reductions, in the next five years, carbon emissions from American power plants will fall to levels last seen during the 1970s — even though electric power production will have doubled over that period. How much further will carbon emissions from US power plants have to fall to calm the environmental doomsayers? It depends on what they're trying to accomplish.

Twenty20

Americans should be free to go wherever work takes them

Alan D. Viard | The Hill

In today's interconnected economy, many Americans travel across state lines as part of their jobs. Regrettably, these workers often face an array of confusing and burdensome tax rules. When an employee lives in one state and earns wages in another, both states have the right to tax the wages. The home state then gives the employee credit for the tax paid to the work state, up to the amount of tax owed on out-of-state wages. That setup is a recipe for uncertainty.

Reuters

Before Congress, James Comey closes the case — almost

Peter J. Wallison | The Wall Street Journal

Now we know, thanks to former FBI Director James Comey's testimony last week, that President Trump was not a target of the investigation into Russian meddling in the 2016 election. That's by far the most important thing Comey said, which should put to rest an allegation that, if true, would undoubtedly have caused even Republicans in Congress to consider impeachment. But Comey's testimony has put another important question on the table.

Reuters

Conservatives, be wary of flirting with populist nationalism

Dalibor Rohac | AEIdeas

Until last Thursday, British Prime Minister

Theresa May was the poster girl of "responsible nationalism," which in the eyes of its proponents had tamed the electorate's worst populist impulses. Now that image seems like a fantasy. The central reason for last week's election fiasco is that May's message did not resonate among younger voters. It's time for conservatives on both sides of the Atlantic to reconsider how they channel nostalgia-driven nationalism.

More from AEI

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Bungling the UK election puts Theresa May — and Britain — in a serious political pickle
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Feared return of the Qaddafi regime will galvanize Salafi-jihadi groups in Libya
Emily Estelle | AEI Critical Threats

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No case for obstruction of justice emerges from last week's hyper-hyped Comey hearing

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Leon Aron | AEI event today at 9:00 AM ET

Looking at the 'panic cycle,' our fear of artificial intelligence probably hasn't peaked

James Pethokoukis | AEIdeas

AEI in the news: How a 1970s power grab led to today's dysfunctional Congress

Megan McArdle and Yuval Levin | Bloomberg View

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Nat Malkus | AEI event today at 4:00 PM ET

Last chance to RSVP: How do education, work, and marriage affect poverty and financial success among millennials?

Robert Doar and W. Bradford Wilcox | AEI event tomorrow at 9:00 AM ET

Regulation vs. innovation: Thanks to the FCC, 1950s teenagers didn't have cellphones

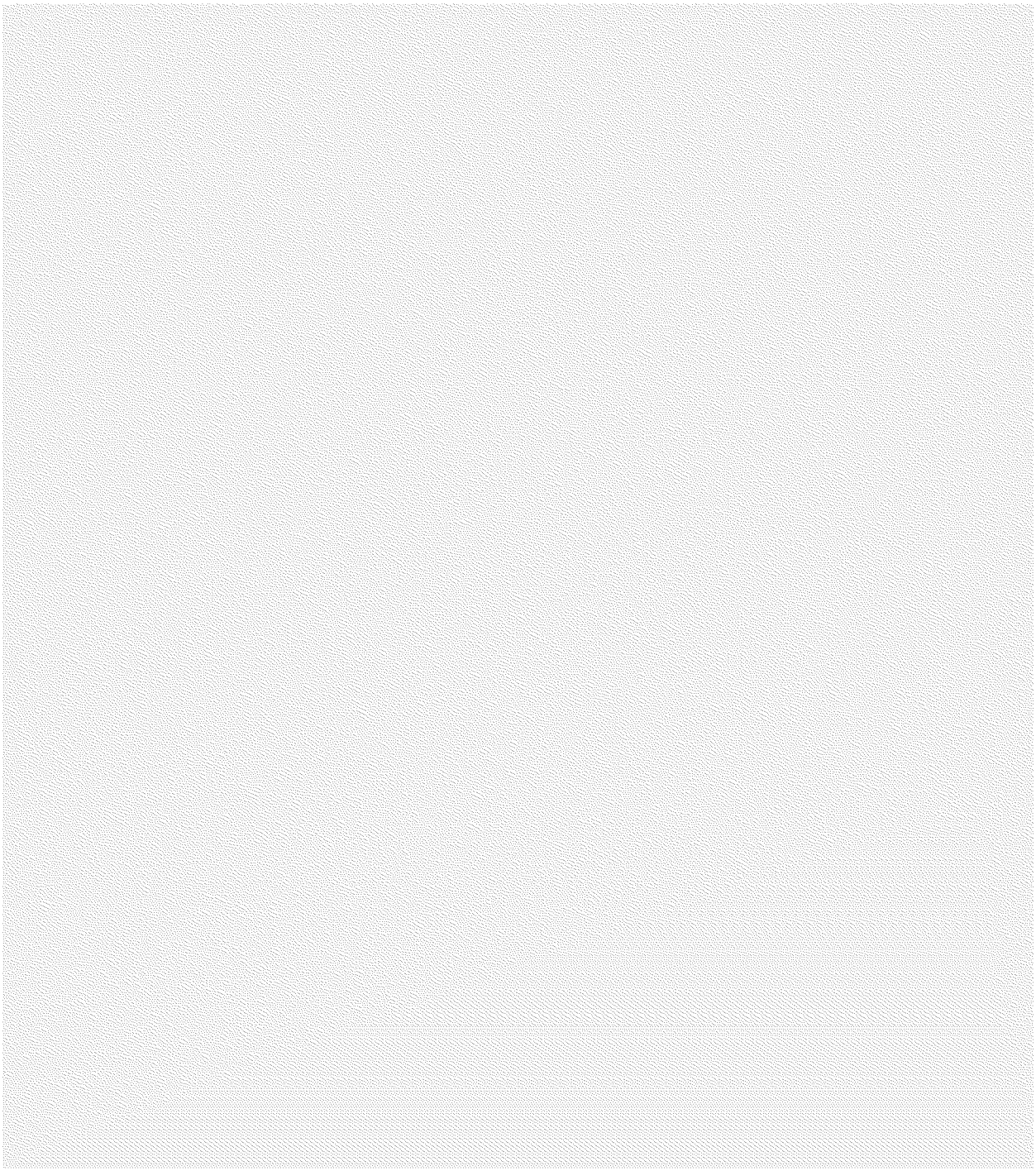
James Pethokoukis | AEIdeas

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From: Bloomberg BNA
Sent: Thur 6/8/2017 7:54:01 PM
Subject: June 8 -- Daily Environment Report - Afternoon Briefing

Daily Environment Report

Afternoon Briefing - Your Preview of Today's News

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Trump Said to Mull Combining Agencies Separated After Gulf Spill

Posted June 08, 2017, 7:55 A.M. ET

By Jennifer A. Dlouhy

After the 2010 Gulf oil spill, the Obama administration broke the scandal-plagued federal agency that policed offshore drilling into separate bureaus.

Now the Trump administration is considering putting it back together again.

The change, described by Interior Department officials and lobbyists familiar with the deliberations, would combine two agencies: one that enforces regulations on offshore drilling safety and another in charge of leasing offshore tracts. Keeping those roles separate was a key recommendation of a presidential commission that investigated the Deepwater Horizon blast that killed 11 men and sent oil gushing into the Gulf of Mexico for months.

Merging the bureaus could send a signal that Interior is easing off on enforcement, right as President Donald Trump expands areas available for offshore oil drilling, according to Bob Graham, a former Florida senator who led the commission.

"I have heard no indication of why we're doing this," Graham said in an interview. "It's just seven years after this enormous disaster—and this was one of the key steps in at least mitigating the chances of a repetition."

Officials are still weighing the reorganization, according to the people, who declined to be identified discussing internal deliberations. Interior Department spokesmen didn't respond to requests to comment on the possible change.

For decades before the BP Plc oil spill, federal regulation of offshore energy development was handled by a single agency within the Department of Interior: the Minerals Management Service. Its biggest claim to fame was a wide-ranging ethics scandal during the administration of President George W. Bush that involved cocaine use, sexual misconduct and financial self-dealing by a

handful of employees, which was documented in multiple probes.

The episode highlighted an uncomfortably cozy relationship between the oil and gas industry drilling offshore and the federal regulators who were supposed to keep a watch over them. Two years later, when BP's failed Macondo well blew out in the Gulf of Mexico, those concerns erupted anew.

Within weeks, with oil still gushing into the Gulf, the administration of President Barack Obama announced it was shuttering the MMS and carving it up into three agencies. Besides the leasing and enforcement bureaus, a third office would act as a piggy bank, collecting billions of dollars annually in royalties, rental payments and bonus bids tied to offshore energy development.

That last agency, the Office of Natural Resources Revenue, would be untouched by the organizational plans now under consideration by Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke. The two agencies that would be combined are the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement and the leasing-focused Bureau of Ocean Energy Management.

Zinke has said he's looking at reorganizing the entire Interior Department with an eye on empowering regional officials and improving collaboration across its agencies. That could involve creating regional hubs to coordinate Interior agencies with overlapping roles and missions that are at cross purposes.

The effort could allow energy companies to get quicker project approvals or, at least, a clear pathway to them.

"We are looking at reorganizing in maybe more of a joint model so industry and citizens when they want to do a project can have—I don't want to say certainty, but at least a path of how to get there," Zinke said at the Offshore Technology Conference last month. "You can know sooner in the process whether yes or no is appropriate and what is that investment you have to make."

Scott Angelle, the newly appointed head of the safety bureau, told reporters last week that he has not been told the two agencies will merge, but "everything is on the table" as part of the department-wide reorganization.

The inherent conflict within the Minerals Management Service was written on the walls of the former agency—literally. Donald Boesch, a marine scientist who served on the presidential spill commission, remembers a fact-finding mission to meet with environmental analysts and safety inspectors at a former MMS office in Louisiana. On the conference room wall, a huge chart illustrated the growth in revenue the agency had gleaned from offshore oil development. Other graphs showed increasing oil and gas produced offshore.

"The metrics they had to deal with on a daily basis were all oriented toward expanding that activity and increasing production as fast as they could," said Boesch, now president of the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science. "That symbolically indicated that there was a strong conflict of interest in how this organization is run."

Recombining the agencies would revive their "inherently conflicting missions," said Senator Ed Markey, a Democrat from Massachusetts.

"Our coastal communities—and even the oil industry—can't afford a return to the bad old days of the safety cop and the leasing agent being the same person," Markey said in an e-mailed statement.

The since-divided bureaus have developed their own identities and missions. Environmental analysis has increased at the ocean energy bureau, while the safety agency expanded its oversight beyond oil and gas companies by penalizing offshore contractors for infractions.

Industry Reaction

Oil industry officials aren't exactly clamoring for the change.

After the creation of the two bureaus, there was confusion about which agency was in charge of which task. Oil companies didn't know where to file permit applications and where to file proposed exploration plans.

"We've found on the industry side that there's still some confusion of who does what," said Randall Luthi, a former MMS director who now leads the National Ocean Industries Association. And the longer the bureaus stay apart, the more stove-piped they become, he said. "If you're going to do it, now is probably a good time."

Still, the reorganization is such a major effort that it could take time away from other priorities, including rewriting Obama-era regulations governing offshore drilling, Luthi said.

"If you asked industry what is your top, No. 1 priority, I doubt it's the re-meshing" of these bureaus, he said.

—With assistance from Laura Blewitt.

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Nuclear Subsidies Slow to Catch on as Opposition Steps Up

Posted June 08, 2017, 02:14 P.M. ET

By Jim Polson

Almost a year after New York became the first state to approve subsidies for nuclear reactors threatened with closure, efforts to replicate the model elsewhere are proving a tough sell.

Lawmakers in Connecticut failed to pass a bill June 7 that was designed to shore up a nuclear plant. Dominion Energy Inc., which mounted a high-profile campaign to win higher revenue for its Millstone station, said it would "continue assessing our investments" in the state as a result.

With the exception of Illinois, supporters of state aid are similarly struggling to make headway in Ohio and Pennsylvania. Those with the most to lose—such as renewable energy providers and big electric customers—are pushing back in state legislatures, said Peter Bradford, a consultant who used to serve on the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. That's making it harder for states to come to the rescue of reactors grappling with plunging power prices.

"It is pretty difficult to get these things across a finish line," Kit Konolige, a Bloomberg Intelligence analyst based in New York, said by phone. "It's been resisted strongly, certainly in Ohio and Connecticut."

Reactor Shutdowns

At least five nuclear power plants have retired in the past five years, including Fort Calhoun in Nebraska, which closed in October. Those in favor of state subsidies say the carbon-free electricity provided by nuclear is needed to help states meet ambitious clean energy targets and preserve local jobs, while opponents counter that they distort the idea of a level playing field.

Dominion had backed a bill proposing that the state takes competitive bids for both nuclear and renewable power. "Continued inaction harms customers, the state's ability to meet its climate goals, and the state's economy," Ken Holt, a spokesman for Dominion's Millstone plant, said in a June 8 statement.

Opponents, including the state's largest electric utilities, had argued there was no evidence Millstone needed state aid, arguing that customers would end up saddled with higher bills as a result.

Exelon Corp. said last month its Three Mile Island reactor near Harrisburg, Pa —site of the worst commercial nuclear accident in U.S. history in 1979—will close in 2019 after losing money for five years. No formal legislation has been introduced in the state.

Legislation introduced in Ohio in April to subsidize FirstEnergy Corp.'s reactors has yet to emerge from House or Senate committees. House hearings have been suspended and no vote is planned, Jennifer Young, a company spokeswoman, said by phone June 7.

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U.K. Seen Headed for Subsidy Free Power from Offshore Wind Farms

Posted June 08, 2017, 02:28 P.M. ET

By Jessica Shankleman

Britain may soon join Germany in harvesting subsidy-free electricity from offshore wind farms, giving government ministers new options in securing power supplies that don't pollute.

Until recently, turbines based at sea were among the most costly forms of power generation, requiring more than $100 a megawatt-hour, which is more than the cost of the latest nuclear power station in the U.K. Across Europe, costs have fallen rapidly in the last year and industry experts say the U.K. could see equally aggressive bidding this year.

In April, Germany accepted bids from developers to build offshore wind farms for an average of 4.40 euros ($4.93) a megawatt-hour, below the current market price for power meaning the facilities essentially will work without subsidy.

The British government soon will collect bids for a 290 million pound ($375 million) funding round for offshore-wind projects to be completed in the early 2020s, and industry officials are speculating how low developers might bid. While the headline cost reported in the U.K. won't be directly comparable with Germany's, it's likely to show progress toward the goal having the technology work without government support.

"If they don't do that, then they will not be competitive," Torben Hvid Larsen, chief technology officer at MHI Vestas Offshore Wind A/S, said in an interview in London June 8.

A spokesman for MHI Vestas said the company's official outlook is for the technology to still require some support from government, though the results will indicate a "trajectory toward subsidy-free pricing in future offshore wind auctions."

Winners are expected to be announced later this year, and as many as seven offshore wind farms may qualify to bid, according to Bloomberg New Energy Finance.

British projects have higher prices than those in Denmark or the Netherlands, where either utilities companies or the government absorb the costs of hooking the wind farms into the grid. In the U.K., developers must pay for site surveys and grid connections, making projects in Britain appear more expensive than those elsewhere, according to the trade association RenewableUK.

The amount of subsidy paid is the difference between the wholesale price of energy and the investment required to make a return on a renewable energy plant. To match Denmark, the Netherlands and excluding grid costs, the U.K. would need to see bids from 60 pounds to 69 pounds a megawatt-hour, said RenewableUK.

"For it to be shockingly cheap in the way that Denmark and the German auction have been, a price in the 60s would be amazing," said Emma Pinchbeck, executive director of RenewableUK. "My personal view is that a price in the 70s is not unlikley."

Prices for offshore wind in Europe have fallen dramatically in the last half decade and plunged 22 percent in 2016 alone, according to BNEF.

While the U.K. auction system operates differently to that in the U.K., calculations can be made that allow companies to compare costs, said MHI Vestas' Larsen.

MHI Vestas, a joint venture between Denmark's Vestas Wind Systems and Mitsubishi Heavy Industries, this week unveiled a 9.5-megawatt machine, the world's most powerful wind turbine, as part of its efforts to increase the size of turbines and reduce their costs.

Wind turbines account for about 40 percent of the cost of offshore projects, said Larsen. Bigger blades are at the heart of Germany's subsidy free bids. Dong has said it expects machines able to produce 13 to 15 megawatts each for its projects when they're due to be completed in 2025.

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Recycle, Reuse Policies for Danish Businesses May Become Law

Posted June 08, 2017, 01:51 P.M. ET

By Marcus Hoy

Builders and waste companies in Denmark could face new requirements to maximize the amount of materials they must recycle, re-purpose, and re-use under a series of proposals that could find their way into law.

The June 7 recommendations from the Circular Economy Advisory Board, which includes the business community, could result in significant cost savings for both private companies and the public sector. The construction, waste, and recycling industries are among those likely to be most

affected as the circular economy takes into account the full life cycle of products.

Flemming Besenbacher, chairman of the Circular Economy Advisory Board, told Bloomberg BNA June 7 that he expected that the initiatives would be adopted into law if necessary. "I have a clear expectation that these initiatives will be presented to parliament and legal proposals will result," Bessenbacher said, adding that the timescale for doing so remains uncertain.

Danish businesses said the proper incentives are needed to drive circular economy approaches. However, the Confederation of Danish Industry also questioned the legality of some of the proposals.

"There is a need for a more uniform organization of waste collection and handling systems that can make recycling more profitable," Karin Klitgaard, head of environmental policy at the Confederation of Danish Industry, said in a June 8 statement. "Today, every Danish municipality can create its own system, which means that many different collection methods are used. It is critical that waste is sorted in such a way that allows companies access to waste that can be used as raw materials in production."

Building, Waste Proposals on Table

Proposals that could affect large companies include:

• New mandates that would require a "demolition plan" to be approved before a building can be demolished. Under the proposal, all materials in a building earmarked for demolition must be listed in accordance with their re-usability and any "problematic" materials noted. Such plans must be drawn up by qualified employees of certified third-party companies

• New documentation rules regarding construction include a requirement for companies to provide information on the composition of building materials and the amount of recycled and recyclable material used in the construction process

• New sustainability guidelines for procurement in both the public and private sectors

• Allowing companies a greater say in choosing where their waste is sent for disposal

• Greater uniformity in the classification of waste, which can vary between regions

• Allowing certain non-waste sector companies the right to collect and process electronic waste

• Requirements for retailers and producers to inform customers about a product's expected lifespan and the availability of spare parts, as well as the promotion of designs that allow for repairs to be carried out

Other initiatives include aligning research, development, and digitization goals with those of the circular economy and developing new standards to meet the report's goals. The document does not state whether each of the measures would be voluntary or mandatory.

Representatives of four large business sector organizations will meet with government officials June 21 to examine how the recommendations could be implemented and decide which organization should take responsibility for specific initiatives. Following these discussions, the government's Economic Committee will examine whether any of the measures could be legislated for in the 2018 budget plan, which is due to be presented in October 2017.

Hydro Overpowers Energy Needs in China

Posted June 08, 2017, 11:29 A.M. ET

By Michael Standaert

Unused energy from hydropower facilities in the southwest China provinces of Yunnan and Sichuan in 2016 was more than the amount needed to power Hebei, the main province surrounding Beijing, for a month, raising questions about the need for future projects.

Rapid development of hydropower projects, a drop in energy demand, and lack of transmission infrastructure and policies to share energy sources with other provinces meant that Sichuan and Yunnan did not use 142 and 314 terawatt-hours, respectively, last year—a dramatic jump from the 26 and 50 terawatt-hours that went unused in 2013, China Communist Party newspaper People's Daily reported.

Idle capacity for facilities that supply electricity for industrial and residential use were built with massive investments and those resources could actually be more than what has been stated in some areas, Julian Kirchherr, a hydropower expert at the Copernicus Institute of Sustainable Development, Utrecht University, Netherlands, told Bloomberg BNA.

"Some sources I've talked to say that more than half of the hydropower capacity in Yunnan province is idle right now," Kirchherr said. "China has commissioned way too many hydropower [projects]. It commissioned, once again, more hydropower capacity than any other country in the world in 2016—around 11 gigawatts—and much of this will not be needed."

The provincial and central governments have not announced plans to deal with the unused power situation.

One solution for the extra energy, however, would be for Yunnan and Sichuan to sell idle capacity to other provinces, but "competing interests impede this," Kirchherr said.

"The national government wants a 'point-to-grid' solution, which means that electricity from a particular dam in Yunnan province is directly sold to a region in need," he said. "Prices for this solution were set by the National Development and Reform Commission and Yunnan provincial officials find these are way too low."

The provinces and the national development agency are now at a "deadlock," Kirchherr said, "which explains a lot of the idle capacity and what you need now is a compromise between Yunnan province and the national government."

Environmental Impacts

The hydropower issue is particularly problematic in Yunnan, where both old and new facilities built along the Lancang River, also known as the Mekong when it flows into Southeast Asia, waste energy and threaten biodiversity.

"Six megadams have been built on the Lancang River and there are at least another six which are being planned," Stephanie Jensen-Cormier, a program director with nonprofit International Rivers in Beijing, told Bloomberg BNA. "It is very important for China to consider the impacts on downstream neighbors as it finds ways to increase its generation of renewable energy."

One of the threatened rivers in China is the Nu River, known as the Salween in Southeast Asia, which is the last free-flowing major river in the country and a center of biodiversity, holding around 50 percent of China's animal species and more than 6,000 plant species.

Five large hydropower projects were slated to be built along the Nu just a few years ago, but the projects were put on hold this March when Yunnan provincial authorities suspended the project as China reevaluates balancing future energy needs against the possibility of establishing a national park along the river.

Overbuilding hydropower facilities and China's push to develop hydropower resources in Southeast Asia as part of its Belt and Road Initiative on trade and economic development also have had negative consequences for neighboring countries, where the major rivers provide primary drinking water, food, irrigation, and other resources for millions of people downstream.

Seven dam projects were constructed on the Irrawaddy River in northern Myanmar, where 90 percent of the electricity was supposed to go to Yunnan, but the province no longer has any need for the energy, Kirchherr said. In the meantime, food security downstream has been threatened as fish are caught up in the dam, and thousands of Burmese/residents have had to be resettled.

"China needs to cancel projects abroad whose electricity was supposed to be exported to China," he said.

China's Clean Energy Ambition Floats on Abandoned Coal Mine

Posted June 08, 2017, 8:13 A.M. ET

By Feifei Shen

China's ambitions to dominate new energy technologies are unfolding at the site of an abandoned coal mine about 300 miles northwest of Shanghai.

There, in Anhui province, Sungrow Power Supply Co. has built the world's largest floating solar farm with 166,000 panels on a lake created when a nearby mine collapsed. While not an entirely unique idea—similar facilities are working in Japan, the U.K. and Israel—the project's scale represents a step forward for China in shaping the future of energy.

President Xi Jinping's government this week is drawing attention to those efforts at a meeting of energy ministers from around the world that concludes June 8 in Beijing. With plans to spend $360 billion on renewable energy by 2020, China is seeking to appear as a global leader on the environment, marking a contrast with U.S. President Donald Trump's rebuke of the Paris Agreement on climate change.

"The Chinese are really investing in the research and development side of innovation," said Helen Clarkson, chief executive officer of The Climate Group, a non-governmental organization that works to promote clean energy technologies and policy.

While Trump has said repeatedly he wants to stimulate fossil fuels and especially coal, China is funding a series of ground-breaking projects that generate power without pollution. Whether with massive floating solar farms like the one in Anhui, sprawling wind farms or ambitious plans to develop geothermal reserves, the world's most-populous nation is asserting itself as a powerhouse of clean-energy technology.

Renewables Spending

In the northwestern province of Qinghai, Huanghe Hydropower Development Co. is planning a demonstration project to integrate power from hydro-electric dams with wind turbines and solar cells. Similarly, the Guoshen Group, a power plant operator, intends to build a project that will combine wind, solar and thermal power with energy storage in the northern region of Inner Mongolia.

Meanwhile, construction has begun on China's first large-scale effort to trap and store carbon dioxide emissions. The Yanchang Integrated Carbon Capture and Storage Project, Asia's first commercial carbon capture plant, is set to begin operating in 2018.

"Everybody has to become more sophisticated about their investment strategy," said Sophie Lu, head of China research at Bloomberg New Energy Finance. "Now it's all about innovation either in new technology or in a new application or a new business model."

China's efforts pit it against the U.S., which insists it can remain a hotbed of innovation in energy even though the president is slashing funds for start-ups in the industry and pulling out of the 2015 Paris accord. On his trip to Asia to represent Trump, U.S. Energy Secretary Rick Perry spoke forcefully of America's efforts to spur energy technology while also challenging China to take leadership on the issue.

"There is a lot of innovation out there, and it is gonna come, not all of the ways, but a lot of it will come from the United States," Perry told reporters in Tokyo. "Somehow or another, because we don't belong to this little club, you can't be innovative and drive technology and affect the climate. I just don't buy it."

Jobs Growth

The stakes are high for both nations. The clean-energy business employed 9.8 million people last year, up 1.1 percent from 2015, led by an expansion in solar photovoltaics, according to the International Renewable Energy Agency's annual report. Green jobs may reach 24 million worldwide in 2030 as more countries work to combat climate change, Irena said.

"China is a real driver in the money they invest in the diligence of their innovation," California Governor Jerry Brown said in a Bloomberg Television interview June 6. "I want California to partner with China in that endeavor. Otherwise we won't achieve our climate goals."

In Anhui, Sungrow's 40-megawatt solar farm in a district of Huainan city called Panji features panels fixed to floats on the surface of a lake that formed after the ground surrounding an old coal mine collapsed.

Floating Solar

Floating solar is spreading and getting bigger, led by projects in Asia and Europe.

Hong Kong-listed Xinyi Solar Holdings Ltd. completed a 20-megawatt floating solar farm last year in Huainan. On a reservoir outside Tokyo, Kyocera TCL Solar LLC has finished a 13.4-megawatt project, the biggest of its kind in Japan. Thames Water Utilities Ltd., the U.K.'s largest privately owned water supplier, operates Europe's largest floating solar farm on its Queen Elizabeth Reservoir reservoir near Heathrow airport.

By the end of September, Sungrow will complete more than 150 megawatts of new floating capacity in Huainan, said Hu Bing, an executive at Sungrow, the world's second-biggest photovoltaic inverter maker.

The Anhui project could yield 5 percent to 10 percent more power compared with a conventional solar plant because the panels are expected to be cooled as surface water evaporates, said Hu.

To be fair, China's energy innovations still have some way to go to catch up to the country's aspirations.

While China has 37 working nuclear reactors, none have been built without expertise from abroad. The country also hasn't produced an innovator with a profile similar to that of Tesla Inc., General Electric Co. or Vestas Wind Systems A/S.

The U.S. plans to keep its competitive edge "the same way we have historically," Perry said in Tokyo. "It's called innovation and technology."

—With assistance from Stephen Stapczynski and Chisaki Watanabe.

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German Renewables Peak as Country Bolsters Paris Commitment

Posted June 08, 2017, 7:54 A.M. ET

By Weixin Zha, Brian Parkin and Jesper Starn

Germany's latest wind and solar power record is unlikely to be the last as the nation deepens its commitment to a low-carbon economy in the face of U.S. President Donald Trump's decision to quit the Paris climate accord.

Clean power supplied two-thirds of Germany's power at one point June 7, with wind and solar generation exceeding the output of more than 50 nuclear reactors as warm, blustery weather crossed the country. In Britain, the same conditions meant wind, solar and nuclear generation exceeded the combined output of natural gas and coal for the first time.

Germany's power from renewables may jump to a record 35 percent or more of the nation's power consumption and will continue to add wind and solar installations through an auction system that has already resulted in subsidy-free green energy. German Chancellor Angela Merkel said last week she'll rally Europe and the world behind the Paris deal, calling it "irreversible" even after Trump's pullout.

"Germany is not taking its foot of the gas pedal in terms of renewable auctions," Elchin Mammadov, analyst at Bloomberg Intelligence, said by phone from London. "So we will see more records going forward."

Wind and solar output climbed to total 52 gigawatts at 1:30 p.m. Berlin time on June 7 when sunshine was at its peak, according to grid company data provided by the European Energy Exchange. Consumption was 78 gigawatts at the same time. One gigawatt is enough to power 2 million European homes.

Power prices turned negative June 7, dropping to as low as minus 50 euros (-$57) a megawatt-hour between 3pm and 4pm, according to data from the Epex Spot SE power exchange in Paris. Day-ahead rates for June 7 dropped to the lowest for a working day in at least 17 years.

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Daily Environment Report for EPA

To: Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
From: POLITICO Pro Energy
Sent: Mon 11/13/2017 10:48:13 AM
Subject: Morning Energy, presented by Chevron: Trump team not pitching Paris renegotiation in Bonn — NERC head on leave after arrest — Perry raises eyebrows with roundtable for big donors

By Anthony Adragna | 11/13/2017 05:45 AM EDT

With help from Emily Holden

LAISSEZ LES BONN TEMPS ROULER? Government officials and industry executives will urge developing countries to pursue "cleaner" fossil fuel and nuclear power in a presentation today in Bonn, Germany, Pro's Emily Holden reports . At tonight's event George David Banks, special assistant to President Donald Trump on energy and environment, will make introductory remarks, while Francis Brooke, an aide to Vice President Mike Pence, moderates a discussion with executives from the liquefied natural gas company Tellurian, the coal company Peabody Energy and the nuclear power company NuScale. Barry Worthington, director of the U.S. Energy Association who will participate in the discussion alongside industry executives, told Climate Home News that striking fossil fuel trade deals was a major goal of the presentation.

Not on the agenda? Paris. Diplomats entering the second week of the COP23 climate negotiations won't be getting any hints from the U.S. delegation about how to convince Trump to stay in an international deal to slash greenhouse gas emissions. A White House official briefing reporters last week said climate mitigation is a "lesser priority" than energy security and economic development, "but it's still a priority" for the White House. "The president has left the door open, the president has said multiple times that he's willing to reconsider our engagement in the Paris agreement if we can find a fairer deal that works for American businesses, taxpayers, consumers, so yeah it's up to the president," the official told reporters.

Out of the shadows: A host of prominent Democratic officials, including five senators, stressed over the weekend that the U.S remained committed to action on climate change despite Trump's stance on issue, POLITICO California's David Siders and Emily report. "I want to make it clear: The federal government is not just the president of the United States," Sen. Ben Cardin, ranking member on the Foreign Relations Committee, told activists on Saturday. The senators met with delegations from India, Japan, the European Union, Mexico, Indonesia and Canada to assuage concerns about U.S. inaction. They also participated in side events including one decrying efforts to weaken automobile CAFE standards.

Governors tout actions too: Four Democratic governors — Virginia's Terry McAuliffe, California's Jerry Brown, Washington's Jay Inslee and Oregon's Kate Brown — plan to highlight their climate ambitions in a panel this morning with Christiana Figueres, former executive secretary of the UNFCCC. And that comes after Jerry Brown and former New York mayor Michael Bloomberg, released a report touting the role of U.S. states and cities in addressing climate change that nonetheless acknowledged non-federal efforts won't be sufficient to meet the 26 to 28 percent emissions reductions below 2005 levels that the U.S. promised by 2030.

Steyer stays focused (on impeachment): Tom Steyer, the billionaire Democratic donor, on

Sunday morning made his case for impeaching Trump to Democrats in Bonn, asking them to "confront the liars and deniers," David also reports. The governors seemed unimpressed, and Steyer acknowledged himself that congressional Republicans, not voters, would have to back his impeachment campaign for it to work.

IT'S ANOTHER MONDAY! I'm your host Anthony Adragna, and NRDC's Ed Chen was first up to identify the L.A. County board of supervisors as the body with two former congresswomen (Janice Hahn and Hilda Solis). For today: Rahm Emanuel is the most famous former congressman-turned-mayor but there's another former member that now runs the largest city in their state. Who is it? Send your tips, energy gossip and comments to aadragna@politico.com, or follow us on Twitter @AnthonyAdragna, @Morning_Energy and @POLITICOPro.

NERC CHIEF ON LEAVE AFTER ARREST: Gerry Cauley is on a leave of absence from the North American Electric Reliability Corporation "until further notice" following his arrest on a domestic violence charge. The Atlanta Journal-Constitution reports Cauley has been charged with a misdemeanor, battery/family violence. Charles Berardesco has been named interim CEO.

EYEBROWS RAISED BY PERRY ROUNDTABLE: Energy Secretary Rick Perry headlines an intimate gathering today on behalf of the pro-Trump outside group America First Policies in a growing trend of giving donors access to Cabinet officials that many worry is an ethical gray area, POLITICO's Maggie Severns reports. Perry won't solicit donations but America First officials plan to ask for contributions after he departs. He's allowed to take part in events for the group's nonprofit policy arm, which is legally separate from the super PAC even though the same officers run both groups.

But campaign finance reform advocates say the arrangement takes advantage of a loophole. "This is all part of the very close coordination we're seeing between the campaign itself and what's supposedly an outside group," said Craig Holman, the government affairs lobbyist at the good-government group Public Citizen.

INSIDE LOOK AT PRESSURE ON PERRY'S GRID STUDY: Alison Silverstein, the veteran energy consultant who authored Perry's electric grid study, resisted pressure from the agency to blame regulations for the struggles of coal and nuclear plants, Forbes reports . After being hit for not faulting regulations in the first draft, Silverstein said she asked officials to provide data to back up their assertion: "I said, 'Bring me the data. I've been in the building three or four weeks now, you guys are the ones who own the issue. Prove to me, bring me all of your research on how regulation has killed these.' 'Well, we don't have any.' 'Then how am I supposed to do this?'"

ACTIVISTS WILL BE PROSECUTED: The Justice Department said Friday it would aggressively prosecute activists who damage pipelines or "critical energy infrastructure in violation of federal law," Reuters reports. That comes after more than 80 House members sought information on what DOJ planned to do about an increase in protest activities around pipelines in a late October letter.

ON TAP IN CONGRESS — DISASTER AID REQUEST EXPECTED: The latest disaster

relief request is expected to arrive on Capitol Hill sometime this week and is likely to top $50 billion, Pro Budget and Appropriations Brief reports. Like the two previous requests, it won't be broken down state-by-state. But the governors of Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands will be town to push for recovery funds and the Texas congressional delegation hopes to meet with OMB Director Mick Mulvaney to make their case for their full $61 billion request.

Speaking of which, Puerto Rico Gov. Ricardo Rosselló and Del. Jenniffer González hold a press conference at 11 a.m. today at the Hall of States to make their case.

And you're out: Abner Gómez resigned his post as head of Puerto Rico's emergency management department on Friday and Lt. Gen. Jeffrey Buchanan, who led the Trump administration's military response to the hurricanes, will be reassigned off the island this week, CNN reports.

And remember Whitefish? While senior linemen from Florida working on grid restoration work on behalf of Whitefish Energy earned $63 an hour working in Puerto Rico, the tiny Montana-based company billed the island's utility $319 an hour for linemen, the New York Times reports. Experts said those charges were well above normal, even for emergency work, though a spokesman for the company defended the charges, saying "simply looking at the rate differential does not take into account Whitefish's overhead costs," included in the rate.

Status check: More than 7 weeks after Hurricane Maria hit, more than 52 percent of the island remains in the dark and more than 10 percent of residents still lack drinking water, according to government figures.

MINE SAFETY PICK COULD GET VOTE: Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell filed cloture last week on David Zatezalo's selection to be the administration's mine safety chief, teeing up a final confirmation vote as soon as this week. He chaired the coal company Rhino Resources when it received pattern of violation notices in 2010 and 2011, but said during his confirmation hearing he wouldn't have a problem working with career staff at MSHA that issued those notices.

FLOOD INSURANCE READY TO ROLL! House Republicans are ready to try again with a revised version H.R. 2874 (115) of their flood insurance reauthorization and the Rules Committee meets today at 5 p.m. That comes even as coastal lawmakers continued to raise concerns with the proposal. Pro Financial Services' Zachary Warmbrodt with more here.

FORMER EPA ATTORNEYS BASH PRUITT ORDER: Fifty-seven former EPA career attorneys today sent a letter to Administrator Scott Pruitt "to correct the many mistakes of law and fact" concerning his October directive boosting the role of industry in settlement negotiations. "It is EPA's failure to comply with legal requirements that is the problem, not the people who sue EPA, the courts that hear the suits, or the EPA and DOJ staff who faithfully negotiate settlements that provide EPA longer and more flexible schedules than it would receive if there were no settlement," they wrote. The former agency attorneys urge Pruitt to revise the directive to promote "fair, transparent, and efficient settlement of well-founded suits against the agency."

NORTH CAROLINA OFFICIAL ALSO ON LEAVE: Donald van der Vaart, a recent appointee to EPA's Scientific Advisory Board and top North Carolina environmental regulator during the prior Republican governor's term, has been placed on "investigatory leave," The News & Observer reports. Van der Vaart's selection to the advisory board generated significant controversy and prompted the new head of the state's Department of Environmental Quality to say he didn't represent North Carolina on the EPA board. His deputy John Evans was also placed on "investigatory leave" for unspecified reasons. Both men demoted themselves to be shielded from termination under the new incoming Democratic administration.

WHY BROWN'S A CLIMATE WARRIOR: David Siders' entire profile of Brown is worth your time but of particular interest to ME readers is why termed-out governor has devoted so much energy to climate change. "I find a lot of what is included in politics doesn't count that much, at least for my salvation or my peace of mind or my interest in life," Brown said. The climate, he went on, "is fundamental. It's not like dietary requirements. It's not like a tax measure, or a school curriculum, or many of the issues, even a crime bill. It goes to the essence of being alive, living things. Whether it's humans or fauna, flora, the basis of life is embedded in this chemical structure, biological structure. And it's threatened."

But not good enough for some: Environmental activists interrupted Brown's speech in Bonn Saturday, shouting his refusal to ban fracking in California was a major blemish on his record. But the long-time governor shot back, according to The Sacramento Bee, "I agree with you, 'in the ground. Let's put you in the ground so we can get on with the show here."

** **A message from Chevron:** When an endangered butterfly was found near a Chevron refinery, we protected the habitat and still plant the only thing they eat—buckwheat. Watch the video: http://politi.co/2yQ8q7z **

MAIL CALL! SAVE TANGIER! Virginia Sens. Tim Kaine and Mark Warner asked Trump in a letter to follow through on his pledge to protect Tangier Island, thought likely to become uninhabitable within 50 years due to rising seas. "We can debate the causes for why this is happening, but regardless, the effects are clear. It is urgent that we address those effects," they wrote.

FOR YOUR RADAR: Delaware Gov. John Carney and Rep. Donald Norcross headline a rally today at the Delaware City Refining Company at 10 a.m. urging Trump to fix the Renewable Fuel Standard to protect East Coast refining jobs.

HIGH PRICE TO PAY? Food and Water Watch and Greenaction for Health and Environmental Justice are out with a report arguing pollution trading programs are "undermining successful environmental laws like the Clean Air Act and the Clean Water Act" by allowing industries to pay to pollute and that they inflict the brunt of the damage on low-income and minority communities. Read it here.

QUICK HITS

— $300 Billion War Beneath the Street: Fighting to Replace America's Water Pipes. New York Times.

— California Westlands water settlement in limbo. High Country News.

— Can Carbon-Dioxide Removal Save the World? New Yorker.

— Schwarzenegger calls on climate activists to change methods. AP.

— Lessons From Hurricane Harvey: Houston's Struggle Is America's Tale. New York Times.

— Canada, U.K. team up in push to end coal-power use. The Globe and Mail.

HAPPENING THIS WEEK

MONDAY

2:00 p.m. — The Environmental and Energy Study Institute hosts briefing to examine how high-octane, low-carbon fuel can enable CAFE compliance, Dirksen 106

2:00 p.m. — "Approaches for International Collaboration and Financing for CCUS Pilot Projects," U.S. Energy Association, 1300 Pennsylvania Ave NW, Suite 550

5:00 p.m. — The House Rules Committee holds hearing on H.R. 2874 (115), the National Flood Insurance Program reauthorization bill, H-313

TUESDAY

9:30 a.m. — "Hurricane Recovery Efforts in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands," Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, Dirksen 366

9:30 a.m. — The NAACP, Clean Air Task Force and National Medical Association hold briefing to unveil report on impacts of oil and gas development on African-American communities, National Press Club, 529 14th St NW

10:00 a.m. — "Response and Recovery to Environmental Concerns from the 2017 Hurricane Season," House Energy and Commerce Environment Subcommittee, Rayburn 2123

10:00 a.m. — "Legislative Hearing on S. 1857, S. 203, S. 839 and S. 1934," Senate Environment and Public Works Clean Air and Nuclear Safety Subcommittee, Dirksen 406

11:30 a.m. — SEEC, Center for American Progress, the League of Conservation Voters, and more hold press conference touting commitment to Paris accord, Senate swamp

2:00 p.m. — "The Need for Transparent Financial Accountability in Territories' Disaster Recovery Efforts," House Natural Resources Committee, Longworth 1324

2:00 p.m. — "Sustaining U.S. Leadership Against Nuclear Terrorism and Proliferation," Hudson Institute, 1201 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Suite 400

4:00 p.m. — "Status and Prospects for U.S. Nuclear Power," John Hopkins SAIS, Room 806, 1619 Massachusetts Avenue NW

WEDNESDAY

8:00 a.m. — Roll Call Live's "Energy Decoded," Newseum, 555 Pennsylvania Ave NW, 8th Floor Knight Conference Center

9:00 a.m. — Business Meeting to consider Reconciliation Legislation, Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, Dirksen 366

10:00 a.m. — "Legislative Hearing on Bills to Empower Indian Tribes, Promote Self-Determination," House Natural Resources Indian, Insular and Alaska Native Affairs Subcommittee, Longworth 1324

10:00 a.m. — House Science Committee markup of several bills, Rayburn 2318

10:00 a.m. — "Promoting American Leadership in Reducing Air Emissions Through Innovation," Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, Dirksen 406

10:00 a.m. — The Information Technology and Innovation Foundation holds a panel discussion on "ARPA-E: A Catalyst of Clean Energy Innovation," 1101 K Street NW, Suite 610A

10:30 a.m. — "Legislative Hearing on National Park, Fish and Wildlife Service Bills," House Natural Resources Federal Lands Subcommittee, Longworth 1334

12:30 p.m. — "Coming Clean: Improving Transparency and Accountability to End Pollution's Chokehold on Development," World Resources Institute, 10 G Street NE, Suite 800

2:00 p.m. — "Nord Stream and European Energy Security," Jamestown Foundation, Choate Conference Room, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, 1779 Massachusetts Avenue, NW

6:00 p.m. — Press briefing on Marine Mammal Protection Act featuring Actress Miranda Cosgrove, Rayburn 2045

THURSDAY

8:30 a.m. — Progressive Policy Institute and Common Good host a Capitol Hill forum on "Rebuilding America: What Are We Waiting For?" The Reserve Officers Association Building, Symposium Center, 4th Floor, 1 Constitution Ave NE

10:00 a.m. — "Successful Pre-Salt Auctions put Brazil's Oil & Gas Sector on Promising Path," Wilson Center, One Woodrow Wilson Plaza, 1300 Pennsylvania Ave. NW

12:00 p.m. — "Beyond Batteries: Grid-interactive Efficient Buildings," Alliance to Save Energy, Rayburn 2045

FRIDAY

11:15 a.m. — EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt addresses The Federalist Society's National Lawyer Convention, 1127 Connecticut Avenue, NW

THAT'S ALL FOR ME!

** **A message from Chevron:** This is a story about DOERS, butterflies, and buckwheat. In '75, the endangered El Segundo Blue butterfly was found near a Chevron refinery. We protected the habitat and planted the only thing they eat—buckwheat. We're still planting and keeping an eye on our littlest neighbor. Watch the video: http://politi.co/2yQ8q7z **

To view online:
https://www.politicopro.com/newsletters/morning-energy/2017/11/trump-team-not-pitching-paris-renegotiation-in-bonn-025509

Stories from POLITICO Pro

U.S. climate delegation won't outline conditions to stick with Paris deal Back

By Emily Holden and David Siders | 11/12/2017 03:33 PM EDT

BONN, Germany—The Trump administration does not plan to give international diplomats any clues about how they could convince the U.S. to stay in a global agreement to fight climate change but will use meetings this week as an opportunity to promote U.S. coal, gas and nuclear companies, according to a White House official.

The centerpiece of the White House presence at the climate talks in Bonn, Germany, will be a Monday evening presentation where government officials and industry executives will urge developing countries to pursue "cleaner" fossil fuel and nuclear power — a pitch that could be meant to widen the market for American energy exports.

The White House source said State Department diplomats and Trump aides would not engage on remaining in the 2015 Paris agreement, which Trump has said he would exit unless he got terms more favorable to U.S. businesses.

"We're not going to address that issue," the official said on an embargoed call with reporters on Thursday. "The president has left the door open, the president has said multiple times that he's willing to reconsider our engagement in the Paris agreement if we can find a fairer deal that works for American businesses, taxpayers, consumers, so yeah it's up to the president."

Trump has never repudiated his view that man-made climate change is a hoax, although the White House has since said he "believes the climate is changing" without elaborating on the cause. But the lack of engagement from his negotiating team suggests he has little interest in reaching a better deal to limit global greenhouse gas emissions.

The U.S. panel is not expected to discuss ways to reach the Paris agreement goals of reducing greenhouse gas emissions enough to avoid a 2 degrees Celsius rise above pre-industrial levels, which scientists say would be a dangerous tipping point.

"The president believes that we can reduce our emissions while growing our economy," the White House official said.

Climate activists were mulling protest actions ahead of the Monday night forum, while fearing the event would only further cast a shadow over the United States' role in the conference.

"It's what you expect when we have fossil fuel billionaires running our government," said Garrett Blad, executive director of the SustainUS, a youth advocacy group. "I think it's irresponsible and dangerous, and I think the American people know that and are on our side."

Former Vice President Al Gore said he expected the forum would do little to alter dynamics of the conference.

"I think that people will see it for what it is," he said in an interview. "The president has surrounded himself with some of the most notorious climate deniers, and people who come to these meeting know who these characters are, and I think they see it for what it is."

The White House official said he didn't expect other countries to ask what kind of deal the president is looking for, adding that the United Nations conference "is really not the place for that to happen," and that the conversation would be more likely to occur between world leaders. Trump returns Tuesday from a 12-day trip to Asia, which included meetings with Chinese President Xi Jinping and other heads of state. He did not mention climate change once while abroad.

The Trump administration is rolling back President Barack Obama's climate efforts and also trying to boost coal-fired power--a major driver of rising temperatures that are making seas swell and extreme weather intensify.

Despite Trump's stance, a delegation of career officials from the State Department is on site at the United Nations conference to represent U.S. interests as countries negotiate how they will achieve and verify their commitments to curb emissions.

In the discussion Monday, George David Banks, special assistant to President Trump on energy and environment, will make introductory remarks. Francis Brooke, an aide to Vice President Mike Pence, will moderate the talk among executives from the liquefied natural gas company Tellurian, the coal company Peabody Energy and the nuclear power company NuScale, as well

as Barry Worthington, director of the U.S. Energy Association.

The panel will outline ways U.S. could encourage developing countries to build "cleaner, more efficient," fossil fuel plants to mitigate climate change, the White House source told reporters last week.

Worthington told Climate Home News that striking fossil fuel trade deals was a major objective of the discussion.

"The flavor du jour is LNG but we're also exporting crude oil and derivative products and continue to export a sizeable volume of coal," he told the outlet.

The White House source said climate mitigation is a "lesser priority" than energy security and economic development, "but it's still a priority."

Without U.S. involvement, "the Chinese will build the coal plants and use inefficient technology," the official said.

"Quite frankly, if we don't bring it up and want to engage people on it, it's just not going to happen," he said. "It's burying your head in the sand if you don't have a conversation, just simply because of the facts, again because of the role coal is going to play in the energy mix...because of the role that natural gas is going to play."

The official cited International Energy Agency projections that natural gas demand will grow 50 percent and coal demand will increase by 2040, especially in South and Southeast Asia. And he pointed to reports that at least 1,600 coal plants are planned or under construction in 62 countries, according to the environmental group Urgewald. Chinese companies are reportedly planning many of them, but the Chinese government in January canceled plans for 103 plants.

As part of the Paris agreement, China pledged to begin shrinking total emissions by 2030. Trump has said it's unfair that China would be able to keep increasing its carbon output in the meantime, although the U.S. over time has contributed more greenhouse gases to the atmosphere than any other nation and China's economy was slower to begin growing.

The White House official did not explain how the U.S. would seek to push of more efficient coal plants abroad, but he said the conversation in Bonn Monday would cover "high efficiency, low emissions coal, but then also the more advanced technologies that either improve efficiency, or the carbon capture and utilization pieces."

Trump on his trip to Asia last week unveiled a slate of deals with China, but none were to promote more efficient coal-fired power plants. One is for sales and rentals of Caterpillar mining equipment to China's largest coal mining company and another is a joint venture between a U.S. industrial gases company and state-owned Chinese firm to build a coal-to-syngas facility, according to Bloomberg. Trump's travels focused far more on promoting the export of U.S. liquefied natural gas.

To view online click here.

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Top Democrats stage anti-Trump revolt at Bonn climate summit Back

By David Siders and Emily Holden | 11/12/2017 10:56 AM EDT

BONN, Germany — A handful of Democratic governors and scores of other lawmakers and mayors are mounting an insurgency at the United Nations climate conference here, orchestrating a highly choreographed campaign to persuade world leaders that President Donald Trump doesn't speak for the United States on climate change.

Several Democratic U.S. senators began meeting last week with officials from other countries, seeking to minimize Trump's withdrawal from the Paris climate agreement. Meanwhile, the governors of California, Virginia, Oregon and Washington — along with mayors from throughout the nation — were expected to touch off a blitz of public appearances at the conference as the meeting enters its final week.

"We are still in!" Sen. Ben Cardin of Maryland told cheering activists Saturday at a pavilion set up just outside the official meeting zone, a de facto headquarters for the opposition. "I want to make it clear: The federal government is not just the president of the United States."

The Democrats' diplomacy — part lobbying, part public relations — comes amid widespread international concern about Trump's decision to pull the United States out of the Paris accord. War-torn Syria announced last week that it would join the agreement, leaving the United States — if it goes through with its withdrawal — as the only country in the world outside of the pact.

On Saturday, Democratic politicians, climate activists and like-minded business interests sought to present the United States as a country divorced from its president. Speakers repeated the slogan, "We are still in," a message splayed across an electronic ticker and on buttons at the unofficial U.S. pavilion. The pavilion's estimated $235,000 cost was being covered by a coalition including former New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg and the billionaire environmentalist Tom Steyer.

Steyer, who is spending millions of dollars on a national television ad campaign calling for Trump's impeachment, was expected to outline his case for Trump's ouster in a speech here Sunday.

While pavilion organizers plied guests with big-name speakers and free beer and wine, a subtler campaign was unfolding inside the conference halls. Starting late last week, a small delegation of U.S. senators, including Cardin, Brian Schatz (D-Hawaii), Ed Markey (D-Mass.) and Sheldon Whitehouse (D-R.I.) — began meeting with officials from other countries in an effort to assuage nerves about Trump. Schatz said he and other lawmakers met with delegations from India and Japan and were planning to meet with representatives of the European Union, Mexico, Indonesia

and Canada.

The senators argued Trump could not quickly undo eight years of Obama-era climate policies or significantly affect state-level efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

"I think that there's an understanding of the American system of government, which is sometimes cumbersome and slow, and frustratingly so, but in this instance it works in favor of climate action," said Schatz. "Whatever the president's rhetoric, he can't prevent us from moving forward on clean energy."

Following a meeting with Mexican officials, Markey said Saturday, "Obviously, I think it's important for them to understand that there are 30 states that have renewable electricity standards, that the fuel economy standards are still the federal law, that the appliance efficiency standards are still federal law."

Democrats trying to thwart attacks on climate action have on their side bureaucracy, the courts and a narrowly divided Congress that often gets stuck in legislative stalemates. Although Republicans control Congress and the White House, they need 60 votes to proceed to most legislation.

The Trump administration is moving to undo President Barack Obama's climate standards — including carbon limits for the roughly one-third of emissions that come from the power sector. Those regulatory rollbacks could take years and will have to stand up to legal review, but in the meantime, the federal government will not move forward to curb greenhouse gases.

Markey promised that Democrats will fight to maintain fuel economy standards and will block any effort to cut back wind and solar tax credits. He told a crowd on Saturday that Trump has "assembled a Cabinet of Big Oil all-stars" but that, "On our side, we have 100 years of science and nearly 100 percent of the scientists in the planet. And inside the United States, we have city after city, state after state, standing up to take action."

Diplomats are paying close attention to American representatives pledging to keep fighting climate change, said Jens Mattias Clausen, a Copenhagen-based climate change adviser for Greenpeace who is attending the talks.

The most important thing those representatives can do is "show the rest of the world that even if the Trump administration refuses to face reality here and continues with this very isolationist style that the rest of the U.S. is actually ready to step up and help with the commitments that they have," Clausen said. In terms of specific numbers they can offer, "the more concrete it gets ... the better," he added.

California Democratic Gov. Jerry Brown and Bloomberg are leading a group called America's Pledge, which aims to release more specific reduction commitments from states and localities next year. On Saturday, they released a report asserting the combined economic power of every state and city that has committed to the Paris agreement would outmatch every country except for China and the U.S.

Yet even their own report acknowledged, as previous studies have, that non-federal efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions are not sufficient to meet the United States' commitments under the Paris agreement given Trump's stated policies. And local and state climate efforts are fraught with their own, internal disagreements about how aggressively subnational governments should pursue climate policies on their own. On Saturday, Brown had a speech interrupted for an extended period by activists protesting California's cap-and-trade program and its permissiveness on hydraulic fracturing.

"You have a positive message insofar as what individual states and individuals are doing" about climate change, Mairead McGuinness, a member of the European Parliament, told Brown at a forum last week.

However, she said, "Sometimes when we make a step forward, there are forces that ask us to step back by half."

McGuinness added, "One of the comments we hear from EU citizens is that, why should we act when others are not?"

For all of the Democrats' efforts, Trump looms large over the conference, and the power of the White House is not lost on the international community. Trump, who has called climate change a hoax, is publicly promoting coal production. He has said he is withdrawing from the Paris agreement because it puts the United States at a "big economic disadvantage."

Last week's elections in the United States provided a rare, positive talking point for Democrats trying to combat Trump's message in Bonn. The Democrats' sweep in the off-year contests, they said, presaged a return to Democratic power in Washington and re-engagement in climate talks abroad.

"Tuesday's election marked that Trump is alone and isolated," said Garrett Blad, executive director of SustainUS, a youth advocacy group. "It's going to be our job back home — 2018 is going to be a huge year with the elections — to make sure that states ... are moving forward with the most aggressive action that we can."

When Bloomberg mentioned Saturday that the official U.S. delegation to the conference under Trump was preparing to host a controversial panel on Monday on the use of fossil fuels, the crowd booed.

"The Trump administration did send a delegation here to Bonn, and it might be the first climate conference where — this is not a joke, folks — coal is being promoted as an example of sustainability," Bloomberg said.

He added, "It will also likely be the last. The world is moving on, and so is the United States."

Former Vice President Al Gore, a major draw for climate activists at the conference, told POLITICO in an interview Saturday that commitments made by states, cities and businesses all

"adds up to a very impressive reduction in U.S. emissions."

He added, "I mean, [Trump] can prohibit EPA employees from talking to the public, and he can remove the word 'climate' from all the government websites. But he can't stop the technological and business revolution that's gaining speed around the world and especially in the U.S."

Sara Stefanini contributed to this report.

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Steyer, who is spending millions of dollars on a national television ad campaign calling for Trump's impeachment, was expected to outline his case for Trump's ouster in a speech here

Sunday.

While pavilion organizers plied guests with big-name speakers and free beer and wine, a subtler campaign was unfolding inside the conference halls. Starting late last week, a small delegation of U.S. senators, including Cardin, Brian Schatz (D-Hawaii), Ed Markey (D-Mass.) and Sheldon Whitehouse (D-R.I.) — began meeting with officials from other countries in an effort to assuage nerves about Trump. Schatz said he and other lawmakers met with delegations from India and Japan and were planning to meet with representatives of the European Union, Mexico, Indonesia and Canada.

The senators argued Trump could not quickly undo eight years of Obama-era climate policies or significantly affect state-level efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

"I think that there's an understanding of the American system of government, which is sometimes cumbersome and slow, and frustratingly so, but in this instance it works in favor of climate action," said Schatz. "Whatever the president's rhetoric, he can't prevent us from moving forward on clean energy."

Following a meeting with Mexican officials, Markey said Saturday, "Obviously, I think it's important for them to understand that there are 30 states that have renewable electricity standards, that the fuel economy standards are still the federal law, that the appliance efficiency standards are still federal law."

Democrats trying to thwart attacks on climate action have on their side bureaucracy, the courts and a narrowly divided Congress that often gets stuck in legislative stalemates. Although Republicans control Congress and the White House, they need 60 votes to proceed to most legislation.

The Trump administration is moving to undo President Barack Obama's climate standards — including carbon limits for the roughly one-third of emissions that come from the power sector. Those regulatory rollbacks could take years and will have to stand up to legal review, but in the meantime, the federal government will not move forward to curb greenhouse gases.

Markey promised that Democrats will fight to maintain fuel economy standards and will block any effort to cut back wind and solar tax credits. He told a crowd on Saturday that Trump has "assembled a Cabinet of Big Oil all-stars" but that, "On our side, we have 100 years of science and nearly 100 percent of the scientists in the planet. And inside the United States, we have city after city, state after state, standing up to take action."

Diplomats are paying close attention to American representatives pledging to keep fighting climate change, said Jens Mattias Clausen, a Copenhagen-based climate change adviser for Greenpeace who is attending the talks.

The most important thing those representatives can do is "show the rest of the world that even if the Trump administration refuses to face reality here and continues with this very isolationist style that the rest of the U.S. is actually ready to step up and help with the commitments that they

have," Clausen said. In terms of specific numbers they can offer, "the more concrete it gets ... the better," he added.

California Democratic Gov. Jerry Brown and Bloomberg are leading a group called America's Pledge, which aims to release more specific reduction commitments from states and localities next year. On Saturday, they released a report asserting the combined economic power of every state and city that has committed to the Paris agreement would outmatch every country except for China and the U.S.

Yet even their own report acknowledged, as previous studies have, that non-federal efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions are not sufficient to meet the United States' commitments under the Paris agreement given Trump's stated policies. And local and state climate efforts are fraught with their own, internal disagreements about how aggressively subnational governments should pursue climate policies on their own. On Saturday, Brown had a speech interrupted for an extended period by activists protesting California's cap-and-trade program and its permissiveness on hydraulic fracturing.

"You have a positive message insofar as what individual states and individuals are doing" about climate change, Mairead McGuinness, a member of the European Parliament, told Brown at a forum last week.

However, she said, "Sometimes when we make a step forward, there are forces that ask us to step back by half."

McGuinness added, "One of the comments we hear from EU citizens is that, why should we act when others are not?"

For all of the Democrats' efforts, Trump looms large over the conference, and the power of the White House is not lost on the international community. Trump, who has called climate change a hoax, is publicly promoting coal production. He has said he is withdrawing from the Paris agreement because it puts the United States at a "big economic disadvantage."

Last week's elections in the United States provided a rare, positive talking point for Democrats trying to combat Trump's message in Bonn. The Democrats' sweep in the off-year contests, they said, presaged a return to Democratic power in Washington and re-engagement in climate talks abroad.

"Tuesday's election marked that Trump is alone and isolated," said Garrett Blad, executive director of SustainUS, a youth advocacy group. "It's going to be our job back home — 2018 is going to be a huge year with the elections — to make sure that states ... are moving forward with the most aggressive action that we can."

When Bloomberg mentioned Saturday that the official U.S. delegation to the conference under Trump was preparing to host a controversial panel on Monday on the use of fossil fuels, the crowd booed.

"The Trump administration did send a delegation here to Bonn, and it might be the first climate conference where — this is not a joke, folks — coal is being promoted as an example of sustainability," Bloomberg said.

He added, "It will also likely be the last. The world is moving on, and so is the United States."

Former Vice President Al Gore, a major draw for climate activists at the conference, told POLITICO in an interview Saturday that commitments made by states, cities and businesses all "adds up to a very impressive reduction in U.S. emissions."

He added, "I mean, [Trump] can prohibit EPA employees from talking to the public, and he can remove the word 'climate' from all the government websites. But he can't stop the technological and business revolution that's gaining speed around the world and especially in the U.S."

Sara Stefanini contributed to this report.

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McAuliffe, top Democrats dismiss impeachment talk Back

By David Siders | 11/12/2017 11:19 AM EDT

BONN, Germany — Virginia Gov. Terry McAuliffe said Sunday he does not support impeaching President Donald Trump, after Democratic billionaire Tom Steyer pressed the case for impeachment at the United Nations climate conference here.

"Let [special counsel Robert] Mueller, and let the people who are doing the process, go through and do what they're doing," McAuliffe said after a breakfast speech by Steyer, a supporter of the Virginia Democrat. "You don't prejudge investigations."

Steyer, who is spending millions of dollars running television ads in the United States calling for Trump's impeachment, told a small crowd Sunday that "lack of action is a choice."

But Steyer's message did not appear to resonate with top Democratic politicians in Germany for the climate talks. Oregon Gov. Kate Brown, who also attended the breakfast, said she has no position on impeachment, which she said is "something that Congress is going to deal with." California Gov. Jerry Brown was also dismissive.

"Do you want me to start an impeachment movement by saying, 'Yes, I agree with Steyer. Let's go.' What will that do?" Jerry Brown told reporters on Saturday night. "That would be counterproductive. It would undermine all that we're trying to do."

Former California GOP Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, a vocal critic of Trump, declined to

answer questions about impeachment Sunday.

Steyer, who is considering running for U.S. Senate in California, spoke in a pavilion set up by United States climate advocates and financed by a coalition including Steyer and former New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg.

McAuliffe, a potential presidential contender who described Steyer as a friend, said, "He paid for the breakfast. He's entitled to clearly say what he wants."

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Pro-Trump group courts donors with Cabinet access Back

By Maggie Severns | 11/10/2017 03:22 PM EDT

Energy Secretary Rick Perry will headline an intimate gathering of high-powered business executives in Texas next week for the pro-Trump outside group America First Policies, the first in a series of "roundtable discussions" giving donors face time with top Trump officials.

The Houston event featuring Perry, detailed in an invitation sent to a Republican donor and obtained by POLITICO, will include roughly 30 people and cover topics from energy policy to the Trump administration's broader agenda, America First spokeswoman Erin Montgomery said. Perry will not solicit donations from the attendees at the Monday event, which would be a violation of federal law — but America First officials plan to ask for contributions after Perry leaves the room.

The event highlights the cozy and growing ties between officials in President Donald Trump's administration and outside allies spending millions of dollars pushing administration policies this year. America First is brandishing its relationships with government officials to establish itself as the White House's preferred outside ally, among a mass of pro-Trump groups that have popped up this year.

In addition to holding more roundtable events, America First Policies recently held conference calls featuring White House Legislative Affairs Director Marc Short, House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy and Rep. Erik Paulsen, all key players on tax reform. America First leaders also huddled with White House officials recently.

America First Policies and its affiliated super PAC, America First Action, plan to raise and spend $100 million supporting Trump's agenda in the next year. Super PACs are not permitted to coordinate with candidates and there are strict rules governing Cabinet officials' political activities. But there is a loophole: Perry and others can participate in events put on by America First's nonprofit policy arm, which is legally separate from the super PAC even though the same officers run both groups.

"As long as the super PAC and the 501(c)(4) each stays in its own lane they can both operate under the same umbrella," said Brett Kappel, a campaign finance lawyer and partner at Akerman LLP.

But campaign finance reform advocates said the arrangement crosses an ethical line.

"This is all part of the very close coordination we're seeing between the campaign itself and what's supposedly an outside group," said Craig Holman, the government affairs lobbyist at the good-government group Public Citizen. The activities constitute "coordination in anyone's definition except for the Federal Election Commission's," he said.

Perry is an ideal ambassador for America First Policies in Texas, where the former governor has deep ties to the energy industry and donors who fueled his state campaigns as well as two presidential bids.

An Energy Department spokesperson did not return a request for comment. Perry was in France this week meeting with energy leaders from other countries. He is slated to attend a similar meeting in Texas on Monday, prior to the America First event, with leaders from Canada and Mexico.

America First was silent for much of this year and went through multiple staff shakeups, but has recently been working to restore its original position as the central group backing Trump's agenda.

But it has competition. Future45, which supported Trump during the 2016 elections with funding from casino billionaire Sheldon Adelson and the Ricketts family, announced a project that will spend in the tens of millions of dollars promoting tax reform earlier this month. Great America PAC, which is affiliated with former White House strategist Steve Bannon, began endorsing 2018 candidates in recent days.

Great America PAC's support for Roy Moore broke from Trump's support for Sen. Luther Strange in Alabama. America First plans to stay closely aligned with Trump and Trump's agenda, which Texas businessman Roy Bailey said could be a differentiator.

"We're not second-guessing anything; we're totally confident in [Trump's] ability to lead this nation and we're supporting him and the vice president," said Bailey, who is involved with America First.

That message has intrigued Texas-based energy executive Dan Eberhart, who said he hasn't yet made a donation to America First but is "interested in what they have to say."

"A lot of people who supported Republicans in 2016 are frustrated with the way things have turned out," Eberhart said. "If the Republican establishment won't support the president's agenda, we need alternatives who will."

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Perry's grid study: 4 things that may have legs Back

By Darius Dixon | 08/24/2017 06:56 PM EDT

The Energy Department's study of the electric grid arrived late Wednesday, but it's not yet clear whether Secretary Rick Perry's efforts to help support nuclear and coal-fired power plants will have legs.

The 187-page report called for DOE to focus mostly on R&D and coordinating efforts to prepare for disasters, and left the heavy lifting for other agencies, such as FERC, EPA, the National Science Foundation and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Among the recommendations are for FERC to "expedite" its work to reformulate how electricity markets pay power generators, and for EPA to revisit its New Source Review permitting program that requires plants to tighten emissions controls when they upgrade their plants — both issues that have proven difficult for the two agencies.

"If these recommendations, as a suite, are something that the administration really wants to do, someone in the White House is going to have to quarterback that," said Greg Gershuny, who served as chief of staff in DOE's Energy Policy and Systems Analysis office during the Obama administration and worked on the Quadrennial Energy Review.

"In the next four or five weeks, as Congress gets back, we'll see if these things are going to move," he said. "How engaged Perry is and how many times a week he's going to the Hill and talking to other agency heads is going to tell us a lot about how serious they are about this."

DOE, which did not submit the report for OMB review before its release, is now taking public comments on the study. Here's a breakdown of the issues.

Wholesale electricity markets: The new report calls on FERC to speed its work with states, grid operators and market players to "improve" how power producers are paid in the wholesale markets under the agency's jurisdiction. FERC had been grappling with the issue under its "price formation" initiative over the past three years, rolling out proposals and new rules to try to adapt to the increasing complexity of the electric grid — and to make sure power generators are fairly compensated.

However, grid operator PJM has argued regulators were thinking too small, and it released a trio of working papers earlier this year highlighting FERC's initiative while quickly noting that "fundamental" price formation issues hadn't been addressed. DOE suggested that FERC consider "fuel-neutral" markets to pay for essential grid reliability services.

So far, FERC seems sympathetic.

Soon after President Donald Trump gave him the gavel this month, FERC Chairman Neil Chatterjee stressed that generators, including coal and nuclear plants, "need to be properly compensated to recognize the value they provide." FERC has broad authority to alter market pricing rules, but that can be a slow process, and can have vastly different impacts in different states and regions — and draw sharp political pushback.

ClearView Energy Partners analysts warned against dismissing opposition to market rules that raise electricity prices on consumers.

"FERC-led initiatives can often create strange bedfellows, strong alliances and more opposition than state-led proposals," a ClearView report issued Thursday said. "We are reluctant to assume this all goes as quickly as the change advocates hope."

DOE's study also argued that "negative offers should be mitigated to the broadest extent possible," a reference to the fact that renewables like wind power can still make money even if power prices go negative because they can rely on a federal production tax credit.

Grid reliability R&D: The new report says that DOE should "focus R&D efforts to enhance utility, grid operator, and consumer efforts to enhance system reliability and resilience." That view stands in contrast to the Trump administration's first budget proposal, which suggested cutting DOE's electricity office by 42 percent from current levels, to $120 million.

Nevertheless, Perry has said he wants his agency to focus on "early-stage" research, with the intention of transitioning that work to the private sector as quickly as possible.

DOE's study says more research should be done on technology that will it make it easier for grid operators to integrate increasing amounts of renewable power, facilitate technical coordination with Canada and Mexico, and increase "targeted" R&D to boost the efficiency of coal-fired power plants.

Infrastructure development: The new push calls on the federal government to "accelerate and reduce costs for the licensing, relicensing, and permitting of grid infrastructure" — including power plants and transmission — which could easily involve a half-dozen federal agencies.

DOE, the study says, "should review regulatory burdens for siting and permitting for generation and gas and electricity transmission infrastructure and should take actions to accelerate the process and reduce costs."

The Obama administration sought to quicken the electric transmission permitting process in 2013 with a memo to the chiefs at the departments of Agriculture, Commerce, Defense, Energy and Interior, which resulted in a final rule last year. Several members of Congress have also pressed the issue in legislation, including in the 2015 highway bill that included directives to more than a dozen agencies to join a new permitting council tasked with speeding up the federal process for large infrastructure projects.

DOE also recommends that the NRC "ensure the safety of existing and new nuclear facilities without unnecessarily adding to the operating costs and economic uncertainty of nuclear energy" and, without much explanation, "[r]evisit nuclear safety rules under a risk-based approach."

The report doesn't target specific NRC regulations, but does discuss the agency's license renewal process and the expenses associated with equipment upgrades, which may make it a prime target for cost reductions.

Breaking down barriers for coal power: The study recommends that policymakers "encourage EPA to allow coal-fired power plants to improve efficiency and reliability without triggering new regulatory approvals and associated costs." That's a reference to the New Source Review permitting program, which was created under the 1977 Clean Air Act amendments to prevent coal plants and other major emitters from making equipment changes or upgrades that would increase their emissions.

Reforming the program has been an industry priority for decades, with companies arguing that power plants have held back on making upgrades that would increase their efficiency because of concerns that they would have to go through the NSR permitting process. A collection of unions earlier this summer, for example, called for NSR reform as part of any replacement rule for the Clean Power Plan.

But multiple Bush administration attempts to weaken permitting requirements show that NSR reform is much easier said than done. A 2002 rule was partly struck down by the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals, which said several new exemptions were not allowed under the Clean Air Act. Another 2003 rule introducing another major exemption was completely tossed out by the D.C. Circuit. A third NSR rulemaking , issued in the final days of Bush's presidency, dealt with how sources report emissions changes. Environmentalists sued, and the rule remains under reconsideration at EPA to this day.

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MSHA nominee: 'I was not proud' of violations notice Back

By Ian Kullgren | 10/04/2017 05:55 PM EDT

President Donald Trump's nominee for assistant secretary of Labor for Mine Safety & Health told a Senate committee today that his coal company ignored safety conditions at one of its mines.

David Zatezalo was chairman of Rhino Resources when it received pattern of violation notices in 2010 and 2011, the Charleston Gazette-Mail previously reported. The company was later fined when a wall collapsed, killing a worker.

When questioned by Sen. Tim Kaine (D-Va.) about the notice, Zatezalo blamed the mine manager.

"The management of that particular group and that particular site was not doing what they should have been doing," Zatezalo said. "I was not proud of the fact that we got designated as a [potential pattern of violations] mine. I did not try to lawyer up and stop anything from happening."

"I replaced that management," he added, "because I wasn't too happy with their performance and hadn't been for sometime."

Zatezalo appeared before the Senate HELP Committee for a confirmation hearing with Cheryl Stanton and Peter Robb, Trump's nominees for Wage and Hour Division administrator and NLRB general counsel, respectively. Few senators showed up to the hearing, though, and Patty Murray (D-Wash.) complained that the Senate's busy schedule didn't leave enough time to probe as deeply as she would have liked.

Zatezalo assured Kaine that he wouldn't have a problem working with career staff at MSHA who issued the notice to his company.

"They did what they were supposed to do," he said.

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Coastal lawmakers push back on House flood insurance proposals Back

By Zachary Warmbrodt | 11/08/2017 03:59 PM EDT

A bipartisan group of coastal lawmakers is pushing for major changes to the National Flood Insurance Program reauthorization bill that's awaiting a floor vote.

Republicans and Democrats representing the Atlantic and Gulf coasts have filed several amendments, which have been released by the House Rules Committee.

Some of the amendments would attempt to further shield policyholders from flood insurance premium increases, following concessions won by House Majority Whip Steve Scalise (R-La.) that reduced proposed penalties for properties that repeatedly flood.

One amendment by Reps. Frank LoBiondo (R-N.J.) and Peter King (R-N.Y.) would strike three sections of the bill, H.R. 2874, including a prohibition on coverage for buildings valued above $1 million. Their amendment would also lower the bill's proposed cap on annual premium increases to $5,000 from $10,000.

"While discussions continue with the committee, Congressman LoBiondo feels the flood insurance bill is not at a point it needs to be to earn his vote and those of other coastal legislators," LoBiondo chief of staff Jason Galanes said. "He drafted the amendment to address those outstanding concerns."

LoBiondo and King were two of 26 House Republicans who wrote to House leadership this summer warning that they would not support an earlier iteration of the House Financial Services Committee package in part because they said it would make flood insurance unaffordable for their constituents.

Another lawmaker who signed on to that letter, Rep. Garret Graves (R-La.), has offered four amendments, including one that would restrict FEMA from raising insurance rates if a property was at a higher risk of flooding because of actions undertaken by the federal government.

Rep. Dan Donovan (R-N.Y.), who was part of the group fighting the bill this summer, has offered an amendment that would freeze insurance premiums in areas where flood maps are being redrawn.

Other coastal Republicans who signed the July letter were trying to put their stamp on the final bill.

Rep. Leonard Lance (R-N.J.) raised concerns about the bill this week, a spokesman said. Rep. Clay Higgins (R-La.) is part of the negotiations, his spokesman said.

Rep. Steven Palazzo (R-Miss.) is pushing for changes addressing several concerns with the bill, including increasing surcharges, how premium rates will be determined for coastal versus inland locations and the lack of provisions that address the NFIP's debt, a spokeswoman said.

"He will continue to push for a program that protects South Mississippians, provides flood insurance that is affordable and available, and ensures the long term success of the program," she said.

House aides said the Financial Services Committee was preparing to rewrite a section of the bill laying out annual assessments that FEMA charges policyholders to fill a reserve fund.

The new provision would require FEMA to impose a 16 percent assessment on insurance premiums, up from the flood program's current rate of 15 percent.

Aides said the change was being made to address member confusion and issues raised by the CBO.

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House Rules reschedules hearing on flood insurance bill Back

By Zachary Warmbrodt | 11/10/2017 04:51 PM EDT

The House Rules Committee will hold a hearing Monday on the National Flood Insurance Program reauthorization bill, as Republicans try to move ahead with a floor vote.

The Rules Committee will resume consideration of the bill, H.R. 2874 (115), after postponing a Tuesday hearing on the legislation. At the time, the committee said it delayed the meeting after the CBO flagged a scoring issue.

In the interim, House Financial Services Chairman Jeb Hensarling (R-Texas) decided to revise a section of the bill that would impose assessments on premiums to fill a reserve fund, drop a prohibition of coverage for homes worth more than $1 million and delay the implementation of an exemption for commercial properties subject to mandatory coverage requirements.

This week, a group of coastal lawmakers continued to raise concerns with the bill and offered several amendments.

WHAT'S NEXT: The Rules Committee hearing on the bill will be at 5 p.m. on Monday.

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SAB appointee doesn't represent North Carolina, state says Back

By Alex Guillén | 11/08/2017 10:16 AM EDT

Donald van der Vaart, the former head of North Carolina's Department of Environmental Quality, will not represent the agency or the state in his recent appointment to EPA's Science Advisory Board, the DEQ told a local television station.

Van der Vaart, a Republican who was considered for a top EPA appointment, demoted himself at DEQ to a non-political position that cannot be removed at will following last fall's gubernatorial win by Democrat Roy Cooper.

But his position on SAB will not come with Cooper's blessing, according to DEQ.

"DEQ does not support his participation on the EPA's SAB," the agency told local TV station WRAL. DEQ will not participate as a representative of the DEQ or North Carolina, the agency added.

Neither van der Vaart nor EPA immediately returned requests for comment this morning.

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Jerry Brown, President of the Independent Republic of California Back

By David Siders | 11/11/2017 07:06 AM EDT

VATICAN CITY—On his way to the United Nations climate talks in Bonn, Germany, this week, Jerry Brown stopped over at the Vatican, where a doleful group of climate scientists, politicians and public health officials had convened to discuss calamities that might befall a warming world. The prospects were so dire—floods and fires, but also forced migration, famine and war—that some of the participants acknowledged difficulty staving off despair.

California's doomsayer governor did not express much optimism either. Seated between an economist and an Argentine bishop at the Pontifical Academy of Sciences, Brown leaned into his microphone and said, "It is despairing. Ending the world, ending all mammalian life. This is bad stuff."

"There's nothing that I see out there that gives me any ground for optimism," he went on. Still, he promised action: "I'm extremely excited about doing something about it."

Even though President Donald Trump has abandoned the Paris climate agreement and called climate change a "hoax," and even though he is proceeding to scrap the Obama-era Clean Power Plan and promoting the production of coal, Brown insisted to his audience at the Vatican that these policies do not reflect the true sensibilities of the United States.

"This is not just a top-down structure that we have in the United States," the governor said. The small crowd burst into applause when he added, "Over time, given the commitments that we're seeing in this room today, and what we're seeing around the world, the Trump factor is very small, very small indeed."

In the raw balance of power between a governor and a president, Brown has almost no standing abroad. What he does have is a platform, and a proposition: Crusading across Europe in his Fitbit and his dark, boxy suit, Brown advances California and its policies almost as an alternative to the United States—and his waning governorship, after a lifetime in politics, as a quixotic rejection of the provincial limits of the American governor. In the growing chasm between Trump's Washington and California—principally on climate change, but also taxes, health care, gun control and immigration—Brown is functioning as the head of something closer to a country than a state.

In his final term, Brown has lobbied other states and regions to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions, while augmenting California's already expansive suite of climate change programs. But Trump's election—and the specter of Brown's own retirement—have lately set the governor

on a tear. In a rush of climate diplomacy this year, Brown traveled to China to meet with President Xi Jinping, then to Russia to participate in an international economic forum. This past week saw him address lawmakers in Brussels and Stuttgart, Germany, and he was preparing for roundtable meetings with scientists in Oslo before arriving in Bonn for a climate conference, where Brown will serve as special adviser for states and regions. And he is preparing for California to host an international climate summit of its own next year in San Francisco.

In one sense, Brown's fixation on climate change would seem unremarkable, the predictable conclusion of a career steeped in the ecological and environmental movements of the 1960s and 1970s. The 1969 Santa Barbara oil spill, early Earth Day rallies and the Stockholm conference on the environment weighed heavily on the public consciousness when Brown was starting out in politics, and observers of a certain age will still recall him mystifying audiences with pronouncements about "planetary realism" and the "spaceship Earth." He was still talking about the need for a fundamental shift in lifestyle when he said at the Vatican that confronting climate change will require "a transformation of the relationship of human beings to all the mysterious network of things."

"It's not just a light rinse," Brown said. "We need a total, I might say, brainwashing. We need to wash our brains out and see a very different kind of world."

But in his climate diplomacy today, Brown is performing a more urgent, final act. For nearly all his public life—from secretary of state to governor, to mayor of Oakland and state attorney general before becoming governor once again, at age 72—Brown's near-constant state was to run for public office. Now, for the first time, he is not. Term limits will chase Brown from the state Capitol in January 2019, and today he calls climate change his "campaign," dismissing the idea that after running unsuccessfully for president three times, he might try again in 2020. "I've thought because people like you ask me," he said in an interview before leaving for Europe. "But no, I'm not running."

Now, Brown's future rests on a family ranch in Northern California, where he is nearly finished building a remote, off-the-grid home. These days, he talks more about rattlesnakes and wild boar than the presidential election, and he has turned his focus from electoral politics to more existential concerns.

"I find a lot of what is included in politics doesn't count that much, at least for my salvation or my peace of mind or my interest in life," Brown said. The climate, he went on, "is fundamental. It's not like dietary requirements. It's not like a tax measure, or a school curriculum, or many of the issues, even a crime bill. It goes to the essence of being alive, living things. Whether it's humans or fauna, flora, the basis of life is embedded in this chemical structure, biological structure. And it's threatened."

Sitting in the back of a Ford Crown Victoria on a tarmac at Los Angeles International Airport, Brown added, "This, to me, seems worthwhile."

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Brown often borrows from the writer Carey McWilliams' description of California as "the great exception," a colossus that McWilliams said, "always occupied, in relation to other regions, much the same relation that America has occupied toward Europe: it is the great catch-all, the vortex at the continent's end into which elements of America's diverse population have been drawn, whirled around."

Trump's election nearly spun that vortex off its axis. In a state where Democrats had already battered Republicans to near-irrelevance, voters last year installed Democratic super-majorities in both houses of the state Legislature. They approved higher taxes and stricter gun controls, legalized marijuana and made certain felons eligible for early parole. They handed Trump the most lopsided loss a Republican presidential nominee has suffered in California in 80 years. Then they slumped in front of their TV sets as the rest of America went the other way.

The morning after the election, the leaders of the state Senate and assembly issued a joint statement in which they said they "woke up feeling like strangers in a foreign land." Brown had joked before the election that if Trump were to become president, "We'd have to build a wall around California to defend ourselves from the rest of this country."

Now, the state Legislature and a large share of Brown's constituents expected him to hoist it up—to assert California's sovereignty in the Trump state. As Trump started dismantling his predecessor's climate policies, Brown helped organize an alliance of 14 states and the island of Puerto Rico, pledging to meet their share of the U.S. commitment to the Paris climate accord. He redoubled his efforts outside of the United States, expanding on a joint project with the German state of Baden-Württemberg: recruiting nearly 200 mostly subnational governments to sign a nonbinding pact to limit global temperature rise to below 2 degrees Celsius, the threshold beyond which many scientists predict environmental catastrophe. On top of that, Brown negotiated legislation extending California's signature cap-and-trade program for an additional 10 years, then signed an agreement with leaders of Ontario and Quebec to integrate their cap-and-trade systems with California's.

Trump's election shook Brown and his home state in other ways, too: California relied on billions of dollars in federal health care funding that Trump threatened to undo, and the president's hard line on immigration sowed fear among California's large population of undocumented immigrants. When the Trump administration started conducting immigration sweeps in Los Angeles, protesters strung "No I.C.E" signs from freeway overpasses, and Brown—who had signed legislation granting undocumented immigrants driver's licenses and access to college financial aid—negotiated state legislation curbing local law enforcement officials' ability to cooperate with federal immigration agents.

By this fall, California's feuding with Washington had grown so routine that it barely registered as news when, during the span of seven hours one day last month, state Attorney General Xavier Becerra announced four separate lawsuits against the Trump administration on issues ranging from health care and education to immigration and oil extraction on public and tribal lands.

Before Trump's election, Brown existed largely at the margins outside California. When he returned to office in 2011, a fellow Democrat held the White House, and no one had to look

West for an expression of leftist causes. In that context, Brown presented as a moderate, taking criticism from environmentalists for his permissiveness of hydraulic fracturing, while others dismissed as insignificant the nonbinding climate agreements he pursued.

But then Trump, less than a month in office, told a national TV audience, "California is in many ways out of control." Former White House chief strategist Steve Bannon, addressing California Republicans shortly after Brown signed legislation expanding protections for undocumented immigrants, said that if California kept this up, it would eventually "try to secede from the union." The governor factored so heavily in the specter of a civil war that House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy, himself a Californian, slipped in a speech last month in which he rebuked one "President Brown."

The nation's most populous state was cleaving from Washington, and Brown was its marshaling force.

"Trump is leaving many vacuums, and I think Jerry Brown has long imagined himself as a kind of global player," says Orville Schell, who wrote a biography of Brown in 1978 and remains in contact with him. "He does see California, as the sixth-largest economy of the world, as capable of playing more of a nation-state-like role."

Brown "sort of accidentally has had the world thrust in his lap through the climate issue, which he passionately believes in," Schell adds. "The opportunity has presented itself, the inclination is there, and he's sort of ratcheting the state up to rush into that breach that Washington is leaving."

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In the role of a statesman, Brown so far has been met with doting audiences in Europe. When he arrived in Stuttgart for meetings this week, local officials sent a seven-car motorcade to the airport to deliver him to his hotel with lights flashing, an unheard-of accommodation back home. And when Brown spoke in Brussels on Tuesday, before the hemicycle of the European Parliament, the body's president, Antonio Tajani, said the governor's presence gave Europeans "some comfort" in the era of Trump. Muhterem Aras, president of the parliament of Baden-Württemberg, told Brown through an interpreter, "You and your work are needed more than ever." She cast Brown as a warrior "facing a mighty lobby as an adversary."

Yet in the polished, grip-and-grin world of diplomacy, Brown can also seem out of place. He has sprinted through his trip on a borrowed charter plane with his tiny entourage—a handful of aides, a small protective detail and his wife and adviser, Anne Gust Brown, straightening his collar. He maintains an exasperatingly loose schedule, suffers posing for photographs and sometimes wanders on stage.

Before he strode into the Vatican headquarters of the Pontifical Academy of Sciences, a 16th century summer residence for Pope Pius IV, Brown darted for a table of coffee and cookies that waiters were starting to clear away.

"You had to eat, didn't you, love?" his wife asked her husband, who has a sixth sense for free

food.

Throughout his trip, Brown has also carried copies of two articles he wrote about the threat of nuclear proliferation, his principal concern other than climate change. The first, "Nuclear Addiction: A Response," was written in 1984 for a now-defunct Jesuit publication. The second is Brown's review in the *New York Review of Books* last year of former defense secretary William Perry's *My Journey at the Nuclear Brink*. Leaving a meeting one night in Rome with Arturo Sosa, the superior general of the Jesuits, Brown squinted over his hawk-like nose and said that while "going around enlisting allies ... I bring my two little articles and I pass them around."

Depending on his audience and mood, Brown vacillates between optimism and dread for the future. Signing a government guestbook in Brussels this week, he quoted Virgil: "Ad astra per aspera"—to the stars through difficulties. Later, when the elevator taking Brown from a meeting went up instead of down, he first complained, half-joking—"Mistake!"—and then said, "That can happen with missile launches, too."

As frequently as Brown is asked about Trump, Brown has mentioned the president only sparingly on his European tour. Although he has called Trump the "null hypothesis" for climate change, a politician who by "making his case of denial so preposterous, helps the other side," he insists the problem of climate change is bigger than one leader, and has acknowledged he is trying to make "lemonade out of a lemon."

A year ago, it appeared that Brown might not be able even to do that. Two nights before the election, he was eating chips and salsa at an airport bar in Durango, Colorado, where he had spent the day campaigning for Hillary Clinton. If Trump took the White House, he said in an interview, it would be "game over" for climate change. "Game over," he said again.

Asked about it recently, on the tarmac in Los Angeles, Brown said, "I say a lot of things while waiting for a drink in bars across America."

"We're fighting," he added. "The game is over in Washington for the moment ... But not in the world."

Later, at the Vatican, he put it this way: "You should despair, but that won't help. So be optimistic, and do whatever you can."

***

Brown said he has met Trump once, when he was mayor of Oakland in the 2000s and considered bringing a casino to the city. The two flew together in Trump's plane to Oakland from Palm Springs. The governor recalled being impressed with a Renoir that Trump had hung on a wall in the plane. "I don't know whether it was real or not," Brown said last year. "But I thought it was. I thought it was a hell of a statement."

Brown, more than many politicians, could appreciate the populist appeal that swept Trump into the White House—and that Brown sought to capture in his own three presidential campaigns. In

1976, he called for an "era of limits," then campaigned against the North American Free Trade Agreement and the influence of corporate money in politics in his 1992 campaign. He refused campaign contributions greater than $100 and, in rhetoric reminiscent of Trump's "drain the swamp," criticized "the basic fact of unchecked power and privilege."

Pat Caddell, the veteran pollster and political analyst who gave advice to Brown in 1992 and Trump in 2016, says, "Brown was way ahead of his time, really ... I think if Jerry had run in '16, he could have won the Democratic nomination."

Today, Brown's mind is elsewhere. He deflects questions about his legacy, arguing, "Everything we're doing can be framed as either a model for everybody else or building my legacy that I'm going to be reviewing in my dotage." Yet the issues that consume him—climate change and nuclear proliferation—are legacy concerns of humankind.

"Human civilization is on the chopping block," Brown told an auditorium full of lawmakers and students this week in Stuttgart, his voice rising almost to a yell. "We have to wake up the world. We have to wake up Europe, wake up America, wake up the whole world to realize that we have a common destiny."

While climate change has afforded Brown a degree of notoriety outside California, he believes that history is not kind to governors and a politician's relevance quickly fades. "It's just a matter of time before your irrelevance engulfs your total being," he said in Los Angeles, chuckling. "I'm pretty focused on today."

He is at least thinking a little about the near future. Dna Hoover, who is building the Browns' ranch house, said Anne Gust Brown called recently to ask about stucco samples and a generator, and the couple ran a herd of goats through the property, where the Browns have planted olive trees, to chew down grass to prevent fire. "He's ready," Hoover says. "He's really so connected with that place and is ready to get up there full-time."

Brown has even discussed the possibility of creating some kind of meeting space on the ranch. Before he was to arrive in Bonn on Saturday, he left his aides behind and swung south to Bremen, Germany, to visit with Silja Samerski, who had once helped him organize a salon he called the "Oakland Table," attracting intellectuals such as the late social critic Ivan Illich. "We're going to talk about unfinished issues from the Oakland Table," Brown said of his visit with Samerski. "The good life, and how are we supposed to lead it. What are we doing? So, that's getting ready for the Colusa Institute," he explained, laughing a bit. Colusa is the name of the county where he is building his ranch.

Brown is also contemplating writing when he leaves office, something he tried, but largely gave up, after his first two terms as governor. His work at the time, he says, "didn't rise to the quality that met my standards."

Decades later, Brown says, "I have much more to say."

At an event held alongside the Democratic National Convention last year, Brown had compared

his retirement to that of a Roman statesman, "a fellow named *Cincinnatus* who saved the Republic, and then he went back to the plow."

Reminded of that comparison recently, Brown smiled and said, "I like to be on my plow." But he added, "Maybe I'll be sending out pronouncements from the plow."

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To: Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
From: Joe Pompeo - POLITICO Media
Sent: Tue 5/30/2017 9:43:49 AM
Subject: Morning Media: Latest scary press-attack incident — Down to the wire for LOD and MSNBC — The make-your-own-fake-news craze

By Joe Pompeo | 05/30/2017 05:41 AM EDT

With Cristiano Lima and Alex Weprin

SHATTERED GLASS - Maybe this is part of a broader pattern, maybe not, but it's disconcerting either way: "Several windows were shattered at the main office of the Lexington Herald-Leader in downtown Lexington, amid suspected signs of small-caliber bullet damage to the building. ... Lexington Police on Monday confirmed that they are investigating the incident as criminal mischief ... 'It's concerning, [Publisher Rufus M.] Friday said, especially given the level of rhetoric directed at journalists recently in the United States and in Kentucky. 'We're going to be vigilant and continue to do what we do ... We're not going to be deterred by this senseless act of vandalism.'" More via the Herald-Ledger.

NPR's David Folkenflik on Twitter: "Hard not to see this in terms of current climate. Last time I know of shots into Herald-Leader was 3 decades ago - after expose of abuses in U of K basketball program"

TIPS AND COMMENTS: jpompeo@politico.com / @joepompeo. **Morning Media** is edited by **Alex Weprin** (@alexweprin / aweprin@politico.com) and produced with writing/reporting help from **Cristiano Lima** (clima@politico.com / @ludacristiano). **Archives**. **Subscribe.**

THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU - To everyone who emailed and tweeted and Facebooked on Friday with kind words of appreciation and encouragement marking one year of Morning Media. You make all the bleary-eyed late nights worth it. On that note, today's edition is a bit less jam-packed than usual, as can be expected when you're putting one of these things together at the tail end of a long holiday weekend. We hope yours was restful and reflective. Now onto the news...

IMMINENT RESOLUTION FOR LAWRENCE O'DONNELL AND MSNBC? There's less than a week left to go in the anchor's contract negotiations, which spilled into the public in recent weeks as reports swirled presaging a possible breakup with the network. Some MSNBC insiders have been speculating that NBC News chief Andy Lack wants to put Brian Williams in the 10 p.m. slot that O'Donnell has manned since 2010, and there's been a fair amount of head-scratching as to why the LOD negotiations have come down to the wire in such dramatic fashion, fueling a perception of tumult even as ratings have soared thanks to the network's Trump coverage. "Personal dynamics behind the scenes have been chaotic for years," a source was telling Morning Media the other day, "but never like it is now." In any case, expect there to be a resolution any day -- O'Donnell's current contract is up this weekend.

A network source familiar with the contract talks said: "We continue to be in active negotiations with the goal of renewal. The discussions have been productive. Lawrence is very

much wanted at MSNBC and he knows that from the seriousness of the proposal."

This should calm a few nerves over at 30 Rock: "Phil Griffin, the longtime president of MSNBC, has signed a new contract to remain at the cable news network, a source with knowledge of the deal tells The Hollywood Reporter. ... There had been some speculation about Griffin's future at the network, with some news reports suggesting a rift with Lack, which has been denied by multiple NBC News sources." THR has more details.

WE COULDN'T HELP BUT NOTICE - That David Gregory guest-anchored CNN's "New Day" yesterday. Might the NBC News vet and former "Meet the Press" moderator be inching toward a larger on-air role at the cable network, which signed him as a political analyst last year? Or has he been guest-hosting now and again and we just haven't noticed until now? (Waiting for clarification from CNN on this.)

ATTN: MICHAEL FERRO - A bit of news from our Chicago-based colleague Natasha Korecki that might be of interest to the tronc chairman: "At least two outside parties have shown interest in buying the Chicago Sun-Times, possibly scuttling what was thought to be a done deal with the owner of the Chicago Tribune ... [A] deadline, originally set for this week, [is] likely to be extended." More here.

MUST READS:

-- "Snubs and slights are part of the job in Trump's White House" [WaPo]

-- "Jared Kushner's Role Is Tested as Russia Case Grows" [NYT]

-- "How Stephen Miller Rode White Rage From Duke's Campus to Trump's West Wing" [Vanity Fair]

-- "First He Became an American -- Then He Joined ISIS" [The Atlantic]

LATEST MEDIA CRAZE: MAKE YOUR OWN FAKE NEWS - Apparently this is a thing now : "Channel23news.com isn't an isolated make-your-own-fake-news site. Using domain registration records, BuzzFeed News identified two separate networks that together own at least 30 nearly identical "prank" news sites and that published more than 3,000 fake articles in six languages over the past 12 months. They're also generating significant engagement on Facebook: The sites collectively earned more than 13 million shares, reactions, and comments on the social network in the last 12 months. ... A Facebook spokesperson told BuzzFeed News it will continue to roll out programs and product updates to make it harder for spammers and fake-news creators to make money from its platform."

EMMANUEL MACRON BRINGS NEW MEANING TO THE TERM 'NO EFFS GIVEN" - Per our colleague Nicholas Vinocur in Europe: "French President Emmanuel Macron on Monday called Russian state-backed media outlets RT and Sputnik 'agents of influence' that spread falsehoods about him during his election campaign -- while standing next to Vladimir Putin. Macron said the two media organizations 'did not behave like press outlets, but behaved like

agents of influence and propaganda' which spread "serious falsehoods,' Macron said. 'I will never give in to that.' It was Macron's first time meeting Putin."

REVOLVING DOOR: Recode has nabbed Teddy Schleifer from CNN, where he has been a Washington-based politics and campaign finance reporter. At Recode, Schleifer will be a senior editor based in San Francisco. From a memo that came over the transom last night: "Teddy's focus will be to aggressively follow the money in Silicon Valley, covering capital, power, and influence. His job will be to break news and tell the stories behind big investments, fast-rising startups and executives, interesting characters, power struggles, winners and losers, side hustles and ambitious hobbies, long before there's a press release or cover-up."

SOUND BITES:

-- "If this quote was not identified as being from Hicks about Trump, it could pass for a North Korean quote about Kim" [Daniel Dale]

-- "Journalists are not the real target of Trump's war on journalism .... We are the highly-visible collateral damage." [Peter Maass]

-- "Watch network TV, you learn things. They still make Tom Cruise movies. And some lady is making weird tent jackets." [Brian Braiker]

-- "A DUI mugshot pretty much guarantees the front page of the New York tabloids." [Pat Kiernan]

R.I.P. FRANK DEFORD - "Through nearly four decades, at least five presidential administrations and seemingly countless Super Bowls and World Series, NPR listeners could depend on at least one thing in the ever-unpredictable world of athletics: Frank Deford. A mainstay on Morning Edition, the Hall of Fame sportswriter was public radio's scholar of sports for some 37 years before hanging up his cleats earlier this year. Deford died Sunday at the age of 78 at his home in Key West, Fla., his wife confirmed to NPR. He leaves behind an astonishing 1,656 commentaries for NPR." NPR's obit.

AMAZON INVESTIGATES - Berkeley j-school professor John Temple writing in Frederic Filloux's Monday Note newsletter : "[A]t the Investigative Reporting Program (IRP) at UC Berkeley ... We've set up a nonprofit company to produce, distribute and monetize the stories developed by our staff and students. And that new company, Investigative Reporting Productions, Inc. (INC), has signed what's known as a 'first look' deal with Amazon Prime Video, which is paying for the right to consider our stories before any other outlet sees them and then develop them. ... We're not sure where this will lead. ... But we do know ... that our agreement with Amazon gives our work the possibility of reaching a bigger and broader audience while creating a new revenue stream for public interest journalism and higher education."

SOUNDTRACK: Steely Dan, "Peg"

EXTRAS:

-- It's not every day that the New York Post and the Daily News have the same cover. But today is one of those days. [Hat tip: Azi Paybarah]

-- Emily Bell: "NYT's publication of leaked Manchester material reveals transatlantic differences; When it comes to making decisions about national security coverage, US journalism follows a different set of priorities" [The Guardian]

-- "Denver Post Columnist Fired After Racist Tweet About Indy 500 Winner" [Deadspin]

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http://www.politico.com/media/tipsheets/morning-media/2017/05/30/latest-scary-press-attack-incident-down-to-the-wire-for-lod-and-msnbc-the-make-your-own-fake-news-craze-001281

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From: POLITICO Pro Energy Whiteboard
Sent: Tue 6/6/2017 2:08:52 PM
Subject: FERC, DOE picks clear Senate energy committee

By Darius Dixon

06/06/2017 10:04 AM EDT

The Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee gave its blessing to President Donald Trump's nominees for FERC and the Energy Department this morning.

FERC nominee Neil Chatterjee, an energy policy aide to Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, was approved by the panel on a 20-3 vote to become a FERC commissioner. Republican Pennsylvania utility regulator Robert Powelson's nomination to FERC advanced on the same margin. Democratic Sens. Ron Wyden, Mazie Hirono and Independent Bernie Sanders voted against the nominees.

Meanwhile, deputy Energy secretary nominee Dan Brouillette won a 17-6 vote from lawmakers on the committee. Democratic Sens. Al Franken, Tammy Duckworth, and Catherine Cortez Masto joined Wyden, Hirono and Sanders in voting no.

The FERC leadership board has been operating without a quorum to approve most major business since early February, when Norman Bay resigned after Trump elevated another sitting Democrat, Cheryl LaFleur, to be acting chairman.

WHAT'S NEXT: The nominees now await confirmation from the full Senate. The FERC nominees are widely expected to be confirmed before the July 4 congressional recess at the end of the month.

To view online:
https://www.politicopro.com/energy/whiteboard/2017/06/ferc-doe-picks-clear-senate-energy-committee-088647

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To: Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
From: POLITICO Pro Energy Whiteboard
Sent: Thur 5/25/2017 3:42:52 PM
Subject: Protesters disrupt FERC, DOE nominees' hearing

By Darius Dixon

05/25/2017 11:34 AM EDT

A handful of climate change and anti-natural gas protesters took turns interrupting the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee nomination hearing of President Donald Trump's two FERC appointees and an Energy Department deputy this morning.

The disruptions at the hearing for FERC nominees Neil Chatterjee and Robert Powelson and deputy Energy secretary candidate Dan Brouillette started about 45 minutes into the meeting, with one protester screaming "FERC hurts families. Shut FERC down!"

Three other protesters interrupted the hearing in the next 15 minutes.

"I am compelled to interrupt this because I have seen the destruction that climate change [causes]," one woman said, as Sen. Joe Manchin peppered the nominees with questions.

As the woman and another protester were escorted out, and Manchin was assured by Chairwoman Lisa Murkowski that he had not lost any of his time questioning the nominees, he looked at the nominees and said "God bless America," drawing laughs from the audience.

Several organizations have signed onto a pledge to oppose any of Trump's appointments to FERC, and anti-gas protesters have regularly interrupted meetings at the agency's headquarters for more than two years.

The number of seats available to the public were limited at the hearing because the nominees brought more than 30 family members and friends.

WHAT'S NEXT: Murkowski told committee members today that they should expect to vote on the three nominees, along with Deputy Interior Secretary David Bernhardt, shortly after the upcoming week-long Memorial Day recess.

To view online:
https://www.politicopro.com/energy/whiteboard/2017/05/protesters-disrupt-ferc-doe-nominees-hearing-088295

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To: Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
From: Joe Pompeo - POLITICO Media
Sent: Tue 6/13/2017 10:04:00 AM
Subject: Morning Media: Megyn Kelly + Alex Jones = brouhaha — Trump's body-slam constituency — NYT lifts comment cap

By Joe Pompeo | 06/13/2017 06:00 AM EDT

With Alex Weprin

TALK ABOUT STEPPING IN IT - By the time Megyn Kelly woke up yesterday morning, a teaser of her upcoming sit-down with Infowars boss Alex Jones had begun circulating online. By the time Kelly went to bed last night, she'd entered full-on media controversy mode, as she faced heavy criticism for her decision to interview the far-right radio host, conspiracy maven and Sandy Hook skeptic. There was fierce backlash on Twitter, including from family members of Sandy Hook victims . Calls for a boycott of Kelly's new NBC News show, "Sunday Night with Megyn Kelly," made headlines. At press time, at least one sponsor, J.P. Morgan, had reportedly pulled its ads. On the other end of the spectrum, Infowars was accusing Kelly of being a shill for the so-called "deep state," and Jones himself was calling for her to pull the interview , scheduled for Sunday, on the basis of Kelly "misrepresenting my views on Sandy Hook," he claimed on Twitter.

The irony here is that Kelly, who made her NBC debut less than three weeks ago, had finally escaped the scandal-infested waters of Fox News -- and in fact the seas over there were looking pretty calm yesterday by comparison, with little more to speak of than an announcement about six executive promotions (more on that below) -- only to find herself enveloped in a different sort of sh-t storm. NBC reps weren't responding to reporters, but one would expect they'll have to say *something* beyond Kelly's Sunday evening tweet explaining her news judgment on the matter: "POTUS's been on & praises @RealAlexJones' show. He's giving Infowars a WH press credential. Many don't know him; our job is 2 shine a light."

Late last night, CNN published some quotes from an interview with Kelly's executive producer, Liz Cole: "As journalists it's our job to interview newsmakers and people of influence no matter how abhorrent their views may be. ... Giving him a platform would mean he goes unchallenged, and that's not the case in any way. ... Viewers will see Megyn do a strong interview where she challenges him appropriately ... Until you see the full program, in the full context, I wouldn't judge it too much."

TIPS AND COMMENTS: jpompeo@politico.com / @joepompeo. **Morning Media** is edited by **Alex Weprin** (@alexweprin / aweprin@politico.com) and produced with writing/reporting help from **Cristiano Lima**, who's on vacation this week. (clima@politico.com / @ludacristiano). **Hadas Gold** contributed to today's column. **Archives**. **Subscribe.**

MUST READS:

-- "Is Trump Inc. the President's Greatest Vulnerability?" [New York]

-- 'Remembering the Murder You Didn't Commit" [The New Yorker]

-- "Paying a Price for 8 Days of Flying in America" [NYT]

-- "Death of a Downtown Icon: Remembering Benjamin Cho" [NYT]

EXHIBIT A - "Congressman-elect Greg Gianforte was sentenced on Monday to 40 hours of community service and 20 hours of anger management as well as a $385 fine after he pleaded guilty to a misdemeanor assault charge connected to an altercation with a reporter last month. The Montana Republican apologized to Guardian reporter Ben Jacobs for assaulting him the night before the special election, after initially denying that he 'body slammed' him."

EXHIBIT B - "42% of Trump voters think it's appropriate for politicians to body slam reporters, compared to 45% who think it's inappropriate. By contrast only 6% of Clinton voters think it's appropriate to body slam reporters, to 89% who think it's inappropriate. Overall 22% of voters think it's ok to body slam reporters, to 69% who think it's not."

Ben Jacobs: "If this incident were simply between myself and the Congressman-elect, that would be one thing. But it's had national ramifications on our politics and our culture. While I have no doubt that actions like these were an aberration for Congressman-elect Gianforte personally, I worry that, in the context of our political debate, they have become increasingly common. In recent years, our discourse has grown increasingly rancorous and increasingly vile. This needs to stop."

TAKE TWO - "Corey Lewandowski... is shopping a book to publishers," CNN's Oliver Darcy reports . "Publishers were told to submit offers to Lewandowski's agent, Mel Berger of WME Entertainment, by a Friday deadline, according to one of the sources, who said Berger was expecting to ultimately fetch seven figures for the book deal. It was not clear what Lewandowski's book would be about. A proposal wasn't submitted, likely to avoid details leaking to the public, the source added. Lewandowski previously had an offer from HarperCollins worth $1.2 million, but lost it over concerns about a nondisclosure agreement."

SOUND BITES:

-- "In other non-Mueller news, Ivanka Trump, who excoriated the "viciousness" of Washington on Fox, made a visit with Conde Nast brass at 1WTC" [Maggie Haberman]

-- "White House press shop promoting Ivanka in ways I haven't seen them promote another top WH aide" [Sam Stein]

-- "They are trying to kill you. These other media outlets are trying to kill you. That's just it, so don't give them the bloody knife." [Brian Kilmeade to Kellyanne Conway]

-- "What does EXCLUSIVE mean when another publication ran an 11,000-word feature last month?" [Matt Haber]

REVOLVING DOOR:

-- As we reported yesterday, there's a new Washington bureau chief in the mix at the Associate Press, and now we know who it is: Julie Pace, who's moving over from the White House beat to lead AP's D.C. coverage. Memo here.

-- **Fox News made six promotions yesterday,** constituting what programming chief Suzanne Scott called "a new programming leadership team." Press release.

NEW YORK TIMES OPENS THE COMMENT FLOODGATES - Heretofore, commenting was available on only about 10 percent of Times stories due to limited manpower among a team of 14 moderators manually policing some 12,000 comments daily. Now, starting today, commenting will be enabled on all top stories (i.e. stories on the homepage that include an article summary) published during business hours. Additionally, comments in the opinion and news sections will for the first time remain open 'round the clock. The change is made possible by a new machine-learning software, developed with the Google-founded tech incubator Jigsaw, designed to give the moderators more bandwidth. The Times is in the midst of evolving how it deals with reader comments and complaints, having recently (and divisively) eliminated its public editor position while creating a new "reader center" run by a team of Times journalists.

FACEBOOK'S LATEST OLIVE BRANCH TO MEDIA OUTLETS - via WSJ: "The social-media giant is building a feature that would allow users to subscribe to publishers directly from the mobile app, according to people familiar with the matter. The feature, long-requested by publishers, is expected to roll out by the end of 2017, three of the people said. Many details remain up in the air, but discussions have centered around making the feature available only on stories published natively to Facebook through its Instant Articles product."

FACEBOOK'S FIRST SCRIPTED SERIES? THR reports that the social media titan "has lined up one of the first series in its push to bulk up on original video programming. The social media giant is near a deal to revive Nicole Byer vehicle Loosely Exactly Nicole for a second season, sources tell The Hollywood Reporter. The news comes four months after the scripted comedy was canceled after one low-rated season on MTV."

SOUNDTRACK: Refused, "Summerholidays vs Punkroutine"

EXTRAS:

-- Michael Calderone: "NBC Has A Right To Book Alex Jones, But Does It Have A Good Enough Reason?" [HuffPost]

-- "NBC Nightly News Removed Itself From an Entire Week of Ratings" [TV Newser]

-- Scores of websites have been banned in Egypt amid a censorship crackdown. [Reuters]

-- Fox has "quietly started offering a national, 24-hour feed on Hulu's live-streaming TV service in more than 70 markets." [WSJ]

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Subject: Today on Climate Beat

June 26, 2017

Today on Climate Beat . . .

. . . we went to California, where Gov. Jerry Brown (D) and legislative leaders are engaged in a "steady stream" of meetings this week on legislation to extend the state's greenhouse gas cap-and-trade program to 2030, and are weighing several competing proposals on the issue.

In Congress, members of the Senate Judiciary Committee are poised to question the Trump administration's nominee to lead the Justice Department's environmental division, with a hearing that could focus on the administration's plans to roll back Obama-era climate rules and potentially undermine EPA's power to regulate GHGs.

And our daily news roundup looked at the White House's plans for "energy week," in which they will tout commodity exports in an effort to achieve American energy "dominance."

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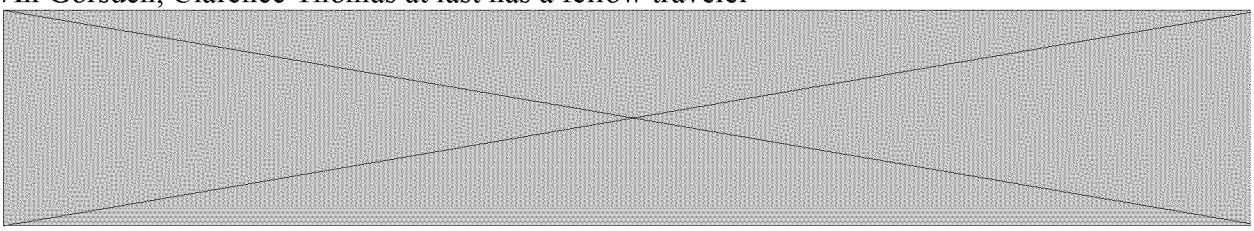
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From: American Enterprise Institute
Sent: Mon 7/3/2017 10:08:38 AM
Subject: AEI Today: In Gorsuch, Clarence Thomas at last has a fellow traveler

. In Gorsuch, Clarence Thomas at last has a fellow traveler



AEI's daily publication of independent research, insightful analysis, and scholarly debate

Reuters

In Gorsuch, Clarence Thomas at last has a fellow traveler

John Yoo and Saikrishna Prakesh | The Wall Street Journal

The Republican gamble to stiff-arm Merrick Garland and hold open Justice Antonin Scalia's seat appears to have hit the jackpot. The term that ended this week revealed that Justice Neil Gorsuch is no Scalia doppelganger. Gorsuch's arrival highlights the ascension of Justice Clarence Thomas, also frequently — and unfairly — caricatured as a Scalia clone.

Reuters

New England's hallowed halls, crumbling

Samuel J. Abrams | National Review Online

It is hard to think about New England without its

colleges. Many schools in the region predate the founding of the United States, and towns such as Middlebury are so intimately linked to their local school historically that it would be hard to think of them without these progressive, prestigious institutions. Thus it's understandable that New Englanders may be upset over a new ranking that puts many of their schools at the bottom of the list.

Reuters

Time to privatize Puerto Rico's power

Andrew Biggs et al. | The Wall Street Journal

One year ago, Puerto Rico defaulted on more than $70 billion of debt, putting at risk more than $50 billion in public pension obligations. Today, Puerto Rico is undertaking the largest municipal restructuring in US history, with the goal of sorting out its long-standing fiscal issues and reigniting economic growth. But unless the island's electric utility can be modernized, Puerto Rico's recovery and ability to repay its debts will suffer.

Reuters

The fixes the Senate health bill needs

James C. Capretta | Real Clear Health

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell is struggling to find votes to pass an updated version of the draft Republican health care bill. The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimate of the bill didn't make his job any easier: CBO projects the plan would increase the number of Americans going without insurance by 22 million in 2026. To make the bill

viable politically, Senate leaders should pursue three key adjustments.

More from AEI

President Trump goes to Europe, new and old
Dalibor Rohac | AEIdeas

In Seattle, a warning sign for Democrats attempting the Full Bernie

James Pethokoukis | The Week

Independent Kurdistan would not make the Middle East more stable. It would be a failed state.

Michael Rubin | AEIdeas

Democrats lack credibility on economic issues . . . and so do Republicans

Michael Barone | Washington Examiner

More people could be covered under Medicaid in the Senate's health care bill than the CBO thinks

Ramesh Ponnuru | Bloomberg View

Report: Al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula, after the Arab Spring and the Islamic State

Katherine Zimmerman | The Washington Institute for Near East Policy

Despite all the grim news cycles, most Americans remain convinced our best days are ahead

Karlyn Bowman and Eleanor O'Neil | Forbes

In Liberia, a for-profit school operator may be transforming education in the developing world

Nat Malkus and Kelsey Hamilton | AEIdeas

The cost of Poland's rush to banking sector socialism
Dalibor Rohac and Martin Miszerak | Financial Times

Brash Donald Trump gets results — in Europe, anyway
Michael Barone | Washington Examiner

Two recent events show just how hypocritical so many Middle Eastern studies professors have become
Michael Rubin | AEIdeas

The Republican health plan: The good, bad, and ugly
Joel M. Zinberg | City Journal

Podcast: Al Felzenberg on the political odyssey of William F. Buckley Jr.
Spencer Moore | AEI Banter

Happy 87th birthday (June 30) to economist Thomas Sowell, one of the greatest living economists
Mark J. Perry | AEIdeas

Around the web: The problem with participatory democracy is the participants
Matt Winesett | AEIdeas

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To: Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
From: Anna Palmer and Jake Sherman
Sent: Fri 5/26/2017 5:07:57 PM
Subject: Playbook Power Briefing, presented by the Coalition for Affordable Prescription Drugs (CAPD): NYT tracks Turkish security detail during last week's attack on protesters -- HILLARY slams Trump -- FBI probing attempted hack of Trump Organization

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Today's Playbook Power Briefing presented by the Coalition for Affordable Prescription Drugs (CAPD)
05/26/2017 01:04 PM EDT

By ANNA PALMER (anna@politico.com; @apalmerdc), JAKE SHERMAN (sherman@politico.com; @JakeSherman), DANIEL LIPPMAN (daniel@politico.com; @dlippman), ZACH MONTELLARO (zmontellaro@politico.com; @ZachMontellaro)

Good Friday afternoon. Downtown D.C. is significantly less crowded than usual today. The Hill seems dead. The beginning of the summer is here.

BULLETIN at 12:32 p.m. "WASHINGTON (AP) - Pentagon plans first-ever intercept test of an intercontinental-range missile like the one North Korea is developing."

IMPRESSIVE JOB BY THE NYT -- "Did the Turkish President's Security Detail Attack Protesters in Washington? What the Video Shows," by NYT's Malachy Browne, Chris Cirillo, Troy Griggs and Natalie Reneau: "The New York Times reviewed videos and photos to track the actions of 24 men, including armed members of President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's security detail, who attacked protesters in Washington last week. Many of the protesters were American citizens. ... The State Department has condemned the episode, and some American lawmakers have called for the men to be prosecuted. But none have been charged with a crime. Here's what video of the main actors shows about the identities of the men and the roles they played in the clash." ***With a detailed analysis of different angles*** http://nyti.ms/2s3d5v1

TRUMP INC. -- "FBI probing attempted hack of Trump Organization, officials say," by ABC News' Josh Margolin, Matthew Mosk and Brian Ross: "The FBI is investigating an attempted overseas cyberattack against the Trump Organization, summoning President Donald Trump's sons, Don Jr. and Eric, for an emergency session with the bureau's cybersecurity agents and representatives of the CIA, officials tell ABC News.

"Law enforcement officials who spoke to ABC News on the condition of anonymity confirmed the attempted hack and said the subsequent meeting took place at the FBI's New York headquarters on May 8, the day before Trump fired FBI director James Comey. Spokesmen for the FBI, CIA and Secret Service all declined to comment. Reached by phone, Eric Trump, an executive vice president of the family company, would not confirm or deny that he and his brother had met with the FBI but told ABC News that the company had ultimately not been infiltrated." http://abcn.ws/2s3Euwz

CLEAN-UP DUTY -- @PhilipRucker: "Gary Cohn clean-up: 'We're not lowering our sanctions on Russia. If anything, we would probably look to get tougher on Russia.' ... Gary Cohn on Trump's climate talks at G7: 'His views are evolving. He came here to learn. He came here to get smarter.'"

QUOTE OF THE DAY -- "I don't want to be president. I drink red wine. I smoke cigarettes. I golf. I cut my own grass. I iron my own clothes. And I'm not willing to give all that up to be president." -- Former House Speaker **John Boehner** at the KPMG Global Energy Conference, per trade publication Rigzone. He also said that the "border adjustment tax is deader than a doornail ... tax reform is just a bunch of happy talk." http://bit.ly/2s3wLid *NOTE:* The "I-don't-want-to-be-president" shtick is a longtime Boehner riff. Dumping on Paul Ryan's tax priority is a bit surprising.

-- "Boehner: Trump's term 'disaster,' aside from foreign affairs," by AP's Mary Clare Jalonick: "Former House Speaker John Boehner says that aside from international affairs and foreign policy, President Donald Trump's time in office has so far been a 'complete disaster.' ... Speaking at an energy conference Thursday in Houston, Boehner praised Trump for his approach abroad and his aggressiveness in fighting Islamic State militants, according to the energy publication Rigzone. 'Everything else he's done (in office) has been a complete disaster,' the Ohio Republican said, according to the publication. 'He's still learning how to be president.'

Boehner said he's been friends with Trump for 15 years, but still has a hard time envisioning him as president. He also said Trump shouldn't be allowed to Tweet overnight." http://apne.ws/2rYO0SO

HILLARY ON OFFENSE -- Hillary Clinton lit into Donald Trump while giving the commencement address at Wellesley, her alma matter "Look at the budget that was just proposed in Washington. It is an attack of unimaginable cruelty," she said. She also implicitly compared Trump to Nixon and decried a fact-free environment. "When people in power invent their own facts, and attack those who question them, it can mark the beginning of the end of a free society," she said. "That is not hyperbole, it is what authoritarian regimes throughout history have done." ***More from Nolan McCaskill*** http://politi.co/2r5Bp1Q

****** **A message from the Coalition for Affordable Prescription Drugs (CAPD):** As list prices for brand drugs continue to rise, employers are partnering with PBMs to keep drug costs under control. In fact, every dollar an employer invests in a PBM service returns six dollars in savings. Learn more at www.affordableprescriptiondrugs.org. ******

MEANWHILE... -- "Barack Obama Is Having a Blast on Vacation in Italy Playing Golf" from TMZ. ***13 pix*** http://bit.ly/2r5Lf3U

STILL AT WAR -- "Service member dies in vehicle rollover in Syria," by Military Times' Todd South: "The official release did not include identifying information or the

service member's military branch - only that the person died as a result of the injuries on May 26. There are about 6,000 American troops spread between Iraq and Syria, where this week Marine Corps artillery crews established a firebase from which U.S. forces intend to attack Islamic State targets in and around Raqqa." http://bit.ly/2s3ogUd

LAUNCHING TODAY -- ACROSS THE POND -- POLITICO's UK election tracker: As campaigning resumes in Britain, download the tracker for iPhones and we'll keep you up to date with the latest poll-of-polls and breaking news in the run-up to the June 8 vote ***Click here on iPhone*** http://bit.ly/2r4s8VO

PSA FOR TRAVELERS -- "Where -- and When -- You'll Find America's Worst Traffic This Memorial Day Weekend," by Wired's Aarian Marshall http://bit.ly/2s3C9lv

AFTERNOON READ -- "Senator John Kennedy (No, Not That One) Embraces Anonymity," by NYT's Matt Flegenheimer: "John Neely Kennedy, a 65-year-old Republican freshman on this baffling campus, is almost certainly not going to be president of the United States. He is, in fact, the only senator for whom a simple Google search is a humbling exercise, thanks to that nettlesome John Fitzgerald Kennedy.

"Yet in an era of self-promotion, self-importance and transparent bids for national prominence among even the greenest of lawmakers, Mr. Kennedy has negotiated his first months on the job as something of a throwback in Washington's crackling tumult -- a Southern-fried Waldo for the Trump age, drifting through the volatility in plain sight, if only anyone were looking." http://nyti.ms/2s3BNLE

TRANSITIONS -- Chris Garcia has been named the new acting national director of the Minority Business Development Agency at the Department of Commerce. Chris is a graduate of Pepperdine University.

SPOTTED -- Dining separately at the Four Seasons this morning: Vernon Jordan, Tom Nides, Patrick Steel and Alan Fleischmann, Don Baer and Melissa Moss. ... Cathy McMorris Rodgers having coffee at Ebenezers on the Hill Friday.

****** **A message from the Coalition for Affordable Prescription Drugs (CAPD):** One in two Americans rely on their employers to provide health care benefits. So, employers partner with PBMs to provide access to effective medications at the most affordable price. PBMs drive savings in part by using clinical expertise to identify generic alternatives that achieve the same health outcomes for a lower price. With generics accounting for 89 percent of prescriptions filled in 2015, but only 27 percent of drug costs, that represents a savings of $227 billion across the U.S. health care system in just one year. Learn more at www.affordableprescriptiondrugs.org. ******

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To: Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
From: POLITICO Pro Energy Whiteboard
Sent: Thur 6/8/2017 7:45:19 PM
Subject: GAO says EPA falls short on advisory board policy

By Alex Guillén

06/08/2017 03:40 PM EDT

EPA fell short on recent orders from Congress to update the agency's policy statement for the Science Advisory Board, according to a report issued today by the Government Accountability Office.

A spending bill passed in 2015 directed EPA to ensure its SAB policy included a way to evaluate bias if the administrator wants "financial-related metrics" to "identify conflicts of interest or bias." EPA critics have long complained that SAB and other advisory panels are weighted toward researchers who receive research grants from the federal government.

The spending bill also directed EPA to study ways of increasing state membership and methods for considering public comment.

However, GAO says EPA fell short on all counts. "EPA did not update its policies or requirements for the SAB as directed by the explanatory statement," the report said.

A draft document did not delve into the financial metrics because agency staff use the "existing legal and policy framework," including Office of Government Ethics rules. The other directives also came up short, and the agency has yet to finalize the document, GAO said.

While the report made no recommendations before the guidance is finalized, GAO said EPA should keep the criticisms in mind.

Administrator Scott Pruitt made waves last month when he declined to re-appoint nine members of the Board of Scientific Counselors, a separate entity from SAB that advises EPA on research issues. Observers also say EPA is behind on finding a new chair for the seven-member Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee.

To view online:
https://www.politicopro.com/energy/whiteboard/2017/06/gao-says-epa-falls-short-on-advisory-board-policy-088846

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To: Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
From: Morning Media
Sent: Mon 11/13/2017 10:35:18 AM
Subject: Morning Media: Breitbart tries to discredit WaPo bombshell --Vanity Fair's new editor -- Hannity loses advertisers -- Gawker's legacy -- Remembering Liz Smith

11/13/2017 05:33 AM EDT

BREITBART READERS WERE TREATED SUNDAY NIGHT to the site's latest attempt at discrediting the Washington Post's explosive Friday report on Alabama Republican Senate candidate Roy Moore. "EXCLUSIVE - Mother of Roy Moore Accuser: Washington Post Reporters Convinced My Daughter to Go Public," a headline blared.

-- This "exclusive" information should've been evident to anyone who read the Post's original report on allegations that Moore, at age 32, had a sexual encounter with a 14-year-old girl and relationships with three other young women between the ages of 16 and 18 while he was in his 30s. "She did not go to them. They called her," Nancy Wells, the mother of Moore accuser Leigh Corfman, told Breitbart News reporter Aaron Klein in a Sunday report. Indeed, the Post already disclosed Friday that "neither Corfman nor any of the other women sought out the Post" and all the women "were initially reluctant to speak publicly." Klein suggests the reporters' methods are evidence of "activist behavior."

-- "It's called journalism. Breitbart might want to try it some time," The Post's Karen Tumulty responded. Certainly, what the Post reporters did - follow a lead, report out details, ask people to speak publicly - is basic news gathering. But Breitbart's ominous framing of the Post's reporting methods, while mocked by journalists, may work on readers reflexively distrustful of the press and willing to support Moore no matter what's revealed about him.

-- Breitbart, which has long boosted Moore's candidacy, has been spinning for the Republican since Friday, emphasizing in its first headline on the story that "Bezos's Washington Post" endorsed Moore's Democratic rival. The Post's editorial board, which makes endorsements, and its owner, Amazon chief Jeff Bezos, have no role in the reporting of the Moore story. But again, those unaware of how newsrooms function and generally suspicious of the media could be swayed into thinking there's some grand conspiracy when there is no evidence of one.

-- Such Breitbart storylines are likely to continue alongside those of other conservative sites, such as Gateway Pundit, that have tried discrediting the Post's meticulously reported story in even more ridiculous fashion. Both Klein and Breitbart Washington editor Matt Boyle are now in Alabama on a mission "to discredit the Washington Post's reporting on Roy Moore's alleged sexual misconduct with teenagers," according to Axios' Jonathan Swan . "Bottom line: This story is about to get even uglier, if that's imaginable," he writes.

Good morning and welcome to Morning Media. Please send tips to mcalderone@politico.com and @mlcalderone. Daniel Lippman (@dlippman) contributed to the newsletter. Archives. Subscribe.

RADHIKA JONES TO LEAD VANITY FAIR: The New York Times broke the news over

the weekend that Jones, the editorial director of the Times' books department, is expected to be named the next editor of Vanity Fair. She'll succeed Graydon Carter, 68, who announced in September that he was leaving after a quarter-century leading a magazine with influence inside the power centers of New York, Washington, Hollywood, and, increasingly, Silicon Valley.

-- A former deputy managing editor at Time magazine, Jones, 44, is highly respected in New York media circles and brings literary flair to the job, with early stints at highbrow publications like Artforum, The Paris Review, and Grand Street. New Yorker editor David Remnick - who was heavily involved in the search process along with Condé Nast's CEO Bob Sauerberg and artistic director and Vogue editor Anna Wintour - is said to have championed Jones's candidacy. And the news, while surprising to some inside Condé Nast, seems to be going over well. Former colleagues of Jones's have been singing her praises to future colleagues at 1 World Trade Center.

-- Jones didn't make the early round-ups of contenders, with speculation largely focused around high-profile candidates like GQ editor Jim Nelson and Janice Min, who led Us Weekly and helped remake The Hollywood Reporter into an industry powerhouse. Jones has appeared on shows like "Morning Joe" and worked on the glitzy Time 100 event but isn't a celebrity editor known for hosting extravagant parties, like Vanity Fair's post-Oscars bash. Carter seems to relish his role hosting that star-studded affair and has long had a presence in upscale Manhattan society, with a Greenwich Village townhouse and investments in restaurants like the Waverly Inn and Monkey Bar. In contrast, Jones lives in Brooklyn, where many magazine editors and writers have decamped over the past decade.

-- Although Jones, like Carter, will be an ambassador for the brand, the role of Vanity Fair editor, like the magazine business more broadly, is changing. Jones takes over as Condé Nast, once famous for supporting the lavish lifestyles of its top editors and pouring resources into ambitious launches, is in cost-cutting mode, evident in the recent shuttering of Teen Vogue's print edition and layoffs at GQ. She'll presumably have to make some tough budgetary choices in the coming years while continuing to expand Vanity Fair's output online (as it's done through brands like "The Hive") and generating revenue through other ventures, like the magazine's conference business.

SOUND BITES

"A real reporter would go to Alabama to learn more about the allegations and confirm whether or not they're true. Only a political operative would go with the specific goal of discrediting the allegations no matter what they find out." [Peter Sterne]

"This conduct described here - convincing people with newsworthy information to share it with the public - is known as 'journalism" [Glenn Greenwald]

"Planning to read every single word of@radhikajones' Vanity Fair.'" [Jodi Kantor]

"To anyone who works with @radhikajones, this news is a) a massive bummer and b) totally unsurprising." [Jennifer Senior]

GAWKER'S LEGACY: The now-shuttered flagship news and gossip site is getting a second look these days, given that Gawker and its sibling sites were years ahead of the national media in addressing sexual misconduct claims against powerful men in entertainment, including Louis C.K., Bill Cosby, Kevin Spacey, and Harvey Weinstein. "I'm not saying I think every story Gawker did was good journalism or anything I would want to publish," Washington Post columnist Margaret Sullivan said in a new video, "but I think overall they served a real purpose and that they are really missed."

-- "I've come to think of a lot of what Gawker did as a kind of twilight news," NPR's David Folkenflik said in a weekend segment . "And that is news that's perhaps not ready for prime time, news that may rely on anonymous sources, news that may not even identify by name the person they're reporting on but stuff that's disturbing and often of public interest. And I think this is something that the New York Times and the conventional press is not equipped to do. And yet the surfacing of these issues happened earlier in this twilight news setting. There is a purpose being served, even if it's from a place about which, at times, I had great, great reservations."

LIZ SMITH, 1923-2017: The Times' obituary for the legendary gossip columnist notes: "From hardscrabble nights writing snippets for a Hearst newspaper in the 1950s to golden afternoons at Le Cirque with Sinatra or Hepburn and tête-à-tête dinners with Madonna to gather material for columns that ran six days a week, Ms. Smith captivated millions with her tattletale chitchat and, over time, ascended to fame and wealth that rivaled those of the celebrities she covered."

TRUMP'S "SAFE SPACE": The Times' Michael Grynbaum reports that Fox News' pro-Trump prime-time lineup is doing "superbly" with viewers. "After falling behind MSNBC on weeknights among the sought-after 25-to-54 demographic, Fox News has surged back," he writes. "And Ms. Ingraham pulled 2.7 million total viewers her first week, nearly half a million more than her competition on MSNBC, Lawrence O'Donnell. Mr. Hannity beat Rachel Maddow on MSNBC last week by about 300,000 viewers."

RELATED: POLITICO's Jason Schwartz wrote last week how Fox News has clung even closer to President Trump than Candidate Trump.

SEVERAL ADVERTISERS CUT TIES WITH HANNITY over his handling of the Moore story, reports CNBC's Sarah Whitten. The companies include Keurig, Realtor.com, 23 and Me, Eloquii and Nature's Bounty. Some Hannity fans have been taking out their anger on Keurigs. (Flashback: I spoke to Hannity in May as some advertisers fled over his coverage of the Seth Rich conspiracy.)

JOURNALISTS TRAVELING WITH TRUMP PROTEST RESTRICTIONS: The Washington Post's David Nakamura reported from the president's stop in Vietnam: "On Saturday, New York Times photographer Doug Mills, a member of the White House Correspondents' Association board, tweeted a 'photo' of a black box, framed with a decorative border, to illustrate the group's frustration. In the tweet, Mills said the 13-member travel 'pool' of reporters, photographers and camera operators that provides reports for the rest of the news media would have no access at the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit."

EXTRAS

-- CNN's Brian Stelter looked at how Alabama papers are playing the Moore story.

-- Joe Biden expressed uncertainty about running for president in 2020 during an interview on Snapchat's "Good Luck America," which will be released Tuesday.

-- Fox News' Chris Wallace called out Trump for "most direct, sustained assault on a free press in our history," but also didn't let the media off the hook.

-- Joe and Mika had a Trump impersonator at their engagement party, which included guests such as Senator Chuck Schumer, Mayor Bill de Blasio, former Secretary of State John Kerry, and agent Ari Emanuel.

-- How Saturday Night Live is handling sexual harassment allegations against powerful men.

To view online:
http://www.politico.com/media/newsletters/morning-media/2017/11/13/breitbart-tries-discrediting-wapo-bombshell-vanity-fairs-new-editor-gawkers-legacy-remembering-liz-smith-001378

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From: POLITICO
Sent: Mon 6/19/2017 1:57:47 PM
Subject: BREAKING NEWS: Supreme Court to hear partisan gerrymandering case

The Supreme Court has agreed to hear a case from Wisconsin that could clarify whether redistricting plans can be unconstitutional because they're too partisan.

Last November, a three-judge panel ruled, 2-1, that the Republican-drawn maps for Wisconsin's state assembly were impermissibly biased against Democrats.

The State of Wisconsin had asked the Supreme Court to summarily overturn the decision, or to put it on hold. The order from the justices Monday suggests they plan to hear the case this fall. There has been no action on the stay request.

Without relief from the justices, the state must submit a new redistricting plan by November 1.

The Supreme Court wrestled with the legality of partisan gerrymandering in cases in 1986 and 2004, but issued muddled rulings that offered no clear guidance on the issue.

Read more: http://www.politico.com/story/2017/06/19/supreme-court-to-hear-partisan-gerrymandering-case-239710

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From: Anna Palmer Jake Sherman Daniel Lippman
Sent: Sat 8/26/2017 2:29:27 PM
Subject: POLITICO Playbook, presented by Chevron: HARVEY makes landfall -- What TEXAS is reading -- BEHIND THE CURTAIN: WH reaches out to allies to say Gorka did not quit -- ARPAIO FALLOUT -- FOR OUR AUSTIN FANS: Franklin BBQ catches fire -- B'DAY: Bob Barnett

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Today's POLITICO Playbook presented by Chevron

By JAKE SHERMAN (sherman@politico.com; @JakeSherman), ANNA PALMER (anna@politico.com; @apalmerdc) and DANIEL LIPPMAN (daniel@politico.com; @dlippman)

Visit the online home of Playbook

Driving the Day

Good Saturday morning. THE LATEST ON HARVEY -- "Damaging Hurricane Harvey settles in over southeast Texas," by AP's Frank Bajak in Corpus Christi, Texas: "Hurricane Harvey settled over southeast Texas early Saturday, lashing the state's Gulf Coast with damaging winds and dumping torrents of rain over hundreds of miles of coastline that braced for what forecasters predicted would be life-threatening storm surges - basically walls of water moving inland. The fiercest hurricane to hit the U.S. in more than a decade made landfall Friday night about 30 miles northeast of Corpus Christi as a Category 4 storm with 130 mph winds.

"It gradually weakened over the next several hours and the National Hurricane Center said that by 5 a.m. Saturday Harvey was downgraded to a Category 1 - still sustaining winds of 90 mph. It had already dumped more than 9 inches of rain in the South Texas city of Victoria and had knocked out power to more than 200,000 customers." http://bit.ly/2wGQb2R

-- @realDonaldTrump at 7:52 a.m.: "Closely monitoring #HurricaneHarvey from Camp David. We are leaving nothing to chance. City, State and Federal Govs. working great together!" ***Trump signed a disaster declaration Friday night, vowing to devote "the full force" of the federal government to provide emergency aid to the state.***

OH BOY -- @BDavisAAS : "WOW. Austin's famous Franklin Barbecue catches on fire. Austin fire chief just now own TV: 'The pit area is pretty much destroyed.'" ... ***Franklin is one of the best BBQ places on earth. ... Austin American Statesman*** https://atxne.ws/2wdj2bZ

FRONT PAGES FROM THE LONE STAR STATE -- CORPUS CHRISTI CALLER

TIMES: "BRACING FOR IMPACT ... As the hurricane barrelled toward Coastal Bend, thousands fled while others vowed to ride out the storm" http://bit.ly/2wxGbsp ... **HOUSTON CHRONICLE:** "HARVEY'S HAVOC ... Category 4 storm roads ashore as the strongest hurricane to wallop Texas since 1961" http://bit.ly/2wxAScr ... **THE DAILY NEWS** (Galveston County): "'We Are Very Concerned'" http://bit.ly/2vfMBw8

FRIDAY EVENING NEWS DUMP ALERT: Sebastian Gorka gone, transgender military rules changed, Joe Arpaio pardoned -- all in the middle of a massive hurricane in Texas. And oh yeah: North Korea was also busy testing its weapons system. **WELCOME TO THE WEEKEND!**

-- SENATE MINORITY LEADER CHUCK SCHUMER SPEAKS: "As millions of people in TX and LA are prepping for the hurricane, the President is using the cover of the storm to 1/... Pardon a man who violated a court's order to stop discriminating against Latinos and 2/ ... Ban courageous transgender men and women from serving our nation's Armed Forces. 3/ ... Then he ran to Camp David. The only reason to do these right now is to use the cover of Hurricane Harvey to avoid scrutiny 4/ ... So sad, so weak. 5/5".

BEHIND THE CURTAIN: WHAT THE WHITE HOUSE WANTS YOU TO THINK ABOUT GORKA -- There has been a lot of back and forth over whether controversial Trump aide Sebastian Gorka was fired or resigned. The White House took the unusual step of reaching out to top Republicans late last night to reinforce its position. One veteran GOP operative noted: "First time I have ever seen surrogate operations send something like this."

Kelly Sadler, special assistant to Trump , sent a blast email Friday night to its surrogates with the subject "Background on Sebastian Gorka." For background purposes only, Sadler wrote: "From a White House Official: 'Sebastian Gorka did not resign, but I can confirm he no longer works at the White House.'" ***Gorka's "resignation letter," via The Federalist*** http://bit.ly/2wdianG

MUST-READ WHITE HOUSE STORIES ...

-- ERIC WOLFF, JOSH DAWSEY, BEN WHITE and **DANIEL LIPPMAN:** "An Ohio electric utility and one of the country's top coal companies had some well-placed help when pressing President Donald Trump for emergency federal assistance for the coal industry - his former campaign manager Corey Lewandowski.

"The companies wanted Trump to prevent utilities from closing economically ailing coal-fired power plants, using authorities normally designed to protect the U.S. electricity supply during emergencies. And as they made their case, they got support from the former Trump aide, who has remained in the president's orbit despite being fired from his campaign more than a year ago.

"Lewandowski denied in a message Friday that he is working for the companies,

utility FirstEnergy and mining corporation Murray Energy. But his involvement in the issue alarmed some senior administration officials and others close to Trump, who saw his role as that of a lobbyist and believed he was being paid for the work. Lewandowski spoke in support of the utility's agenda at the White House and met with other senior administration officials on the issue this spring and summer, according to senior White House officials and records reviewed by POLITICO. Lewandowski was also integral in setting up meetings between Chuck Jones, the CEO of utility FirstEnergy, with Trump and other White House officials, according to the documents and officials. Lewandowski traveled aboard Air Force One during that period, sources said." http://politi.co/2vxuU6L

-- JOSH DAWSEY: "Fallout grows as Trump continues attacks on fellow GOP members": "'If the goal is to accomplish absolutely nothing and fundamentally destroy the Republican Party from a national perspective, I wouldn't change a thing,' said Josh Holmes, a former chief of staff and adviser to Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell." http://politi.co/2vykXFT

-- JOSH DAWSEY and **BEN WHITE: "Ditching Trump's White House can be a messy affair:** Economic adviser Gary Cohn wrote resignation letters after Charlottesville, joining the ranks of aides who have threatened to quit or resigned - while remaining in the building": "[Gary Cohn] talked to his family about quitting, and his wife urged him to do so. He went to Bedminster for a last-minute meeting with the president last Friday, according to people familiar with the session. But he didn't quit, instead choosing to criticize Trump in an interview with the Financial Times while sticking around to see what Trump will do - leaving Cohn in limbo and his White House colleagues and others mystified. ...

"No one is exactly sure what Spicer is doing these days at the White House; he quit five weeks ago but is still there while negotiating his next gig and meeting with TV networks, while staying on the payroll. ... One senior administration official said Trump seems to relish the personnel dramas. He'll ask aides what they think of each other. He will tell advisers that he is considering firing someone. He doesn't mind trial balloons. He likes to see how much public embarrassment someone can take. ...

"After weighing the decision with his family, he went to Bedminster to talk with Trump. He told Trump he would publicly criticize him and then did it in the Financial Times interview that published Friday, according to a person familiar with the conversation." http://politi.co/2wxuodr

****** **A message from Chevron** : When an endangered butterfly was found near a Chevron refinery, we protected the habitat and still plant the only thing they eat-buckwheat. Watch the video: http://politi.co/2ie5v0A ******

ATTN. TRUMP: COHN DOGGING YOU IN PUBLIC! -- WAPO'S DAMIAN PALETTA and **PHIL RUCKER: "Trump confronts unprecedented public rebuke by Gary Cohn after Charlottesville":** "On Wednesday evening, Cohn complained loudly about Trump while dining with friends at a Long Island restaurant called the Frisky Oyster. Cohn

explained to his companions -- in a loud voice overheard by others -- that he had to be careful not to give Trump too much lead time about some new ideas because the president could disclose the information prematurely and upend the planning process, according to a person familiar with the dinner. ... Cohn's critics celebrated the Financial Times interview Friday, hoping that it would undercut his stature with the president. One Trump ally outside the White House, who has been strategizing to undermine Cohn, said, 'Cohn looks like he blew himself up, so we're not going to have to blow him up.'" http://wapo.st/2w6KOsm

ARPAIO PARDONED -- ARIZONA REPUBLIC: "President Donald Trump has pardoned former Sheriff Joe Arpaio for his criminal contempt conviction, removing the only legal consequences the lawman faced stemming from a long-running racial-profiling suit. The White House announced the pardon Friday evening in a news release that recounted Arpaio's lengthy career of 'admirable service' in federal and local law enforcement and called him 'a worthy candidate for a Presidential pardon.'

"Reached moments after the announcement, Arpaio said he had not spoken to Trump, but 'I'm very appreciative of the president issuing that pardon. It shows how he backs up law enforcement.' Arpaio told The Arizona Republic he learned of the president's action from his lawyer, who visited him Friday at about 4 p.m. at Arpaio's Fountain Hills home. The lawyer delivered Arpaio's wife, Ava, a birthday gift, and 'the other gift was the pardon,' said Arpaio, who added that he and his wife planned to celebrate over a dinner of spaghetti with calamari and red wine at a favorite Italian restaurant." http://bit.ly/2wFNtKW ... ***Pic of Arpaio reading his pardon*** http://bit.ly/2vfQjG4

-- INTERESTING: Trump didn't mention anything about the conviction in his statement announcing the pardon. He just ran down Arpaio's career and said, "Sheriff Joe Arpaio is now eighty-five years old, and after more than fifty years of admirable service to our Nation, he is worthy candidate for a Presidential pardon."

CNN'S LAURA JARRETT -- @LauraAJarrett: "DOJ had no role in Arpaio pardon per source with knowledge -- this did not follow typical Office of Pardon Attorney process".

-- THE POLITICAL IMPACT: **CNN's ERIC BRADNER: (@ericbradner):** "Now, the Arpaio pardon has given Arizona Democrats the most powerful tool they could possibly want to turn out Latinos in '18 and '20".

-- ARIZONA REPUBLIC EDITORIAL: "Our View: Donald Trump just resurrected Joe Arpaio from irrelevance": "His pardon of Joe Arpaio elevated the disgraced former Maricopa County sheriff to monument status among the immigration hardliners and nationalists in Trump's base. This erases any doubt about whether Trump meant to empower them after the violence in Charlottesville." http://bit.ly/2iydR31

-- @SenJohnMcCain: ".@POTUS's pardon of Joe Arpaio, who illegally profiled Latinos, undermines his claim for the respect of rule of law." ... **@JeffFlake:** "Regarding the

Arpaio pardon, I would have preferred that the President honor the judicial process and let it take its course."

--"The Joe Arpaio I Knew," by Ryan Gabrielson in ProPublica: "The former Maricopa County sheriff made his name in part by targeting immigrants -- even after a judge ordered him to stop ... it's worth remembering precisely what Arpaio did in his decades in law enforcement." http://bit.ly/2wH98T5

FLASHBACK -- GLENN THRUSH, June 20, 2016: "Trump's political godfather: Joe Arpaio, America's most controversial sheriff, talks to 'Off Message' about what he taught Donald Trump about politics." http://politi.co/28IUdNe

DEFENSE SECRETARY JIM MATTIS, speaking to U.S. soldiers in **JORDAN:** "You're a great example for our country right now. It's got some problems. You know it, and I know it. It's got problems we don't have in the military. And you just hold the line, my fine young soldiers, sailors, airmen, Marines. You just hold the line until our country gets back to understanding and respecting each other, and showing it and being friendly to one another ... We're doggone lucky to be Americans and we got two powers, the power of inspiration, and we'll get the power of inspiration back, and we've got the power of intimidation, and that's you if someone wants to screw with our families, our country and our allies." http://bit.ly/2iyWxLs

THE LATEST ON THE TRANSGENDER BAN -- "Fate of transgender already in military unclear under order," by AP's Robert Burns: "President Donald Trump on Friday directed the Pentagon to extend indefinitely a ban on transgender individuals joining the military, but he appeared to leave open the possibility of allowing some already in uniform to remain. Trump gave Defense Secretary Jim Mattis authority to decide the matter of openly transgender individuals already serving, and he said that until the Pentagon chief makes that decision, 'no action may be taken against' them. ... Mattis has been directed to take a number of factors into consideration in determining how to deal with transgender individuals already serving. Those factors are to include broad measures such as 'military effectiveness,' budgetary constraints and 'unit cohesion,' as well as other factors Mattis deems 'relevant.'" http://bit.ly/2xlt62V

MUELLER WATCH -- "Mueller Seeks Grand Jury Testimony from PR Execs Who Worked With Manafort," by NBC News' Ken Dilanian, Carol E. Lee and Tom Winter: "Special Counsel Robert Mueller issued grand jury subpoenas in recent days seeking testimony from public relations executives who worked on an international campaign organized by Paul Manafort, people directly familiar with the matter told NBC News. This is the first public indication that Mueller's investigation is beginning to compel witness testimony before the grand jury - a significant milestone ... It is also further indication that Manafort ... could be in serious legal jeopardy. According to one executive whose firm received a subpoena, Mueller's team is closely examining the lobbying campaign, which ran between 2012 and 2014." http://nbcnews.to/2vxO1O2

-- WashPost's Carol D. Leonnig and Tom Hamburger: "The investigators asked

Mercury for information about their public relations work at Manafort's behest for a Brussels-based organization called the European Centre for a Modern Ukraine, which pushed for improved relations between the Ukraine and European countries. ... Mercury ... had worked on the Ukraine lobbying project with the Podesta Group, led by Anthony Podesta, brother of John Podesta, who led Hillary Clinton's presidential campaign. ... Mike McKeon, a partner at Mercury, declined to comment on or confirm that his firm received a subpoena. ... Investigators have sought information from SGR in relation to work Flynn did for a Dutch company with ties to Turkish President Recep Erdogan." http://wapo.st/2vfMXDc

HMM -- "OSHA scrubs worker deaths from home page," by Ian Kullgren: "The federal department charged with protecting workers erased data on workplace deaths from the home page of its website Friday - and changed its policy to disclose fewer fatal accidents in the future. For the past several years, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration had maintained a running list of workers killed on the job - including the date, name and cause of death - near the top of its home page. The list included every worker death reported to OSHA, regardless of whether the company was issued a citation. On Friday, the box on the home page disappeared and was replaced with information on how companies can voluntarily cooperate with OSHA to reduce safety risks.

"That information was available before but is now displayed more prominently. The new fatality list, buried on an internal page of the website, does not include incidents where a worker was killed if the company was not cited for violations. The change could leave about 20 percent of worker deaths off the log, said Debbie Berkowitz, an adviser at OSHA during the Obama administration and currently a senior fellow at the National Employment Law Project." http://politi.co/2wO7Sg9

NEW FROM CHARLOTTESVILLE - "As White Nationalist in Charlottesville Fired, Police 'Never Moved,'" by NYT's Frances Robles: "As demonstrators clashed near a downtown park here two weeks ago, a white nationalist protester in a bulletproof vest turned, pointed a pistol toward the crowd and fired a single shot at the ground, in the direction of a black man wielding an improvised torch. To make his escape, a video recording shows, the armed protester strolled past a line of about a dozen state police troopers who were safely positioned about 10 feet away behind two metal barricades. None of them budged. ... So stark was the police failure to intervene, many participants in the protest and counterprotests believe it was by design." http://nyti.ms/2wPJFpz

-- SF CHRONICLE: "Right-wing rallies in limbo in San Francisco and Berkeley": http://bit.ly/2wccABS

Playbook Reads

PHOTO DU JOUR : A damaged stop light blocks a street as Hurricane Harvey makes landfall in Corpus Christi, Texas, on Friday night. | Nick Wagner/Austin American-Statesman via AP

REMEMBERING FORMER REP. VERN EHLERS -- MLive.com: "U.S. Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos and former Michigan Gov. John Engler were among several hundred dignitaries, friends and neighbors who attended a memorial service for former U.S. Rep. Vernon Ehlers on Thursday ... Ehlers, who died on Aug. 15 at age 83, was remembered as an environmentalist, educator, father and public servant who encouraged his students, family and colleagues: 'Leave it better than you found it.'" ***With 35 pix on one page*** http://bit.ly/2geq5wV

-- EHLERS held the Grand Rapids-area seat for 18 years. That seat is now occupied by Rep. Justin Amash (R-Mich.).

AMERICA'S LONGEST WAR -- "Pentagon's concealment of total troops in war zones under fire," by Wesley Morgan: "Caps on troop levels in Iraq, Afghanistan and Syria mandated by the Obama administration have led to an elaborate Pentagon accounting system that conceals thousands of troops from the public - one that is quickly unraveling as the Trump administration prepares to send more troops to the region. With new plans to ramp up the war in Afghanistan, the military is finding it exceedingly difficult to maintain a practice that purposely doesn't count certain troops in the battle zone that military officials insist was not designed to be misleading but many critics now assert is at best an officially sanctioned charade.

"The U.S. already has as many as 12,000 troops in Afghanistan, significantly higher than its 8,400-person cap. If President Donald Trump sends nearly 4,000 additional troops, as officials predict, the total will be nearly double the current public number. In Iraq, where the Baghdad government faces political resistance to a large American troop presence, the 5,200 troop figure the Pentagon uses in public serves as a useful fiction. In fact, more than 7,000 U.S. troops are in Iraq, according to recent reports. And in Syria the official 503 U.S. troops mostly covers special operations units. But hundreds of other troops who support them and their local allies remain classified - including the Marine artillerymen and Army Rangers whose vehicles are frequently photographed by local journalists." http://politi.co/2xB4mmD

-- "Trump's Afghan Gamble Now Rests on General He Doubted," by NYT's Mujib Mashal: "The commander in chief and his commander fighting the uphill war in Afghanistan have never met. Even after months of delay, when President Trump convened his national security team to complete his Afghanistan strategy, the commander, Gen. John W. Nicholson Jr., was conspicuously absent. That distance reflects a remarkable shift in America's longest war. Mr. Trump's predecessors overcame even the most awkward relationships for regular briefings with their field commanders. When General Nicholson, a 61-year-old combat veteran described by peers as a 'thinker warrior,' was asked at a news conference in Kabul on Thursday if he had directly briefed the president, he said: 'I provide my input through the chain of command, and this system works well.'" http://nyti.ms/2gd8e9U

WHAT BOSTON IS READING -- "White House anti-drug office asks Mass. for medical marijuana data," by the Boston Globe's Dan Adams: "An arm of the White House's antidrug office has asked Massachusetts and several other states where medical marijuana is legal to turn over information about registered patients, triggering a debate over privacy rights and whether state officials should cooperate with a federal administration that appears hostile to the drug.

"Dale Quigley, deputy coordinator of the National Marijuana Initiative, or NMI, has asked Massachusetts health officials for data on the age, gender, and medical condition of the state's approximately 40,000 registered medical marijuana patients. Quigley is a former police officer in Colorado with a long history of speaking out against legalization. ... In an interview, Quigley said the data are for a routine research project, in which he is looking for any correlation between how strictly states regulate medical cannabis and the rates of marijuana use among different age groups within the general public in those states." http://bit.ly/2vxS4tl

THE ADMINISTRATION -- "Trump nominates Iancu to head U.S. Patent and Trademark Office," by John Hendel: "President Donald Trump [on Friday] nominated intellectual property attorney Andrei Iancu as director of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. POLITICO previously reported that Iancu, a managing partner at the Los Angeles-based law firm Irell & Manella, topped the list of candidates for the office. While not well known inside the Beltway, he's viewed by some as a compromise candidate who is not too close to the technology or pharmaceutical sectors, which are often at odds over patent policy."

****** **A message from Chevron** : This is a story about DOERS, butterflies, and buckwheat. In '75, the endangered El Segundo Blue butterfly was found near a Chevron refinery. We protected the habitat and planted the only thing they eat-buckwheat. We're still planting and keeping an eye on our littlest neighbor. Watch the video: http://politi.co/2ie5v0A ******

HAPPENING TONIGHT -- **CONOR MCGREGOR** (age 29) vs. **FLOYD MAYWEATHER** (age 40). THE LINE: Floyd Mayweather is at -600, which means one would have to wager 600 to win 100. McGregor is at +450, which means you'd have to wager 100 to win 450.

-- TMZ: "LAST CALL FOR PRIVATE JETS!!!" http://bit.ly/2vqaU6G

-- FUN PRIVATE FLIGHTS INTO LAS VEGAS: West Hampton, New York; New Haven; White Plains, New York; lots of L.A.-area airports; Kelowna, British Columbia; Hartford.

CLICKER - "The nation's cartoonists on the week in politics," edited by Matt Wuerker -- ***12 keepers*** http://politi.co/2xk3TFI

GREAT WEEKEND READS, curated by Daniel Lippman:

--"How Colleges Are Strangling Liberalism," by Mark Lilla in the Chronicle of Higher Ed: "An obsession with identity has made students less likely to engage with a world beyond themselves." http://bit.ly/2vwsDsi

--"I Want to Persuade You to Care About Other People" - Longreads: "After changing her conservative grandfather's mind about affirmative action, Danielle Tcholakian commits to trying to get through to people whose politics are very different from her own." http://bit.ly/2ve7Q1v

--"Richard Florida Is Sorry," by Sam Wetherell in Jacobin Mag: "For years, Richard Florida preached the gospel of the creative class. His new book is a mea culpa." http://bit.ly/2wFkS8z

--"My Weekend at the Falwells' South Beach Flophouse," by Brandon Ambrosino in Politico Magazine's Friday Cover: "Liberty University presents itself as a temple of virtue. But its founding family's secret Miami hostel is a cesspool of vice." http://politi.co/2wOc0fV

--"Germany Must Abandon Its Military Reluctance and Lead," by Anne Applebaum in Der Spiegel: "Germany enjoys high regard around the world. But with American power weakening and authoritarian powers rising, the country needs to abandon its military reluctance and finally lead in Europe." http://bit.ly/2gdNkax

--"Justice," by Domnick Dunne in the March 1984 issue of Vanity Fair: "A father's account of the trial of his daughter's killer." http://bit.ly/2gdr6W4

--"A Most American Terrorist: The Making of Dylann Roof," by Rachel Kaadzi Ghansah in GQ: "'What are you?' a member of the Mother Emanuel AME Church in Charleston asked at the trial of the white man who killed eight of her fellow black parishioners and their pastor. 'What kind of subhuman miscreant could commit such evil?... What happened to you, Dylann?' Rachel Kaadzi Ghansah spent months in South Carolina searching for an answer to those questions-speaking with Roof's mother, father, friends, former teachers, and victims' family members, all in an effort to unlock what went into creating one of the coldest killers of our time." http://bit.ly/2vowBUS

--"Mysterious Circumstances," by David Grann in the December 13th, 2004 issue of the New Yorker: "The strange death of a Sherlock Holmes fanatic." http://bit.ly/2ixBbOF (h/t Longform.org)

--"Why Was an Italian Graduate Student Tortured and Murdered in Egypt?" by NYT's Declan Walsh: "The strange twists in the case of Giulio Regeni's disappearance in Cairo." http://nyti.ms/2wOwBRm

--"How Police Cracked Canada's Largest Child Pornography Ring," by Robert

Kolker in The Walrus: "Inside the year-long effort to take down a criminal organization hiding in plain sight." http://bit.ly/2wO8zpR

--"The Toll: A 911 plea for help, a Taser shot, a death -- and the mounting toll of stun guns," by Reuters' Peter Eisler, Jason Szep, Tim Reid and Grant Smith: "In the most detailed study ever of fatalities and litigation involving police use of stun guns, Reuters finds more than 150 autopsy reports citing Tasers as a cause or contributor to deaths across America. Behind the fatalities is a sobering reality: Many who die are among society's vulnerable - unarmed, in psychological distress and seeking help." http://reut.rs/2vwT3Kp

--"The Weekly Package: How Cubans deliver culture without internet," by Kim Wall in Harper's: "Where Cuban internet exists, it is inescapably social. There are 353 public Wi-Fi hot spots in the nation, with fifty-three scattered around Havana, all operated-and surveilled." http://bit.ly/2xzBBq3

Playbookers

SPOTTED: Kellyanne Conway with her kids and a friend at il Canale pizzeria in Georgetown last night. ***Pic with il Canale general manager Matteo Russoniello*** http://politi.co/2vfGmbP At another table was former Dallas Cowboy quarterback Troy Aikman, who is in town for the Redskins game ... Mika and Joe headlining Seeds of Peace's 25th anniversary benefit last night in Kennebunk, Maine -- ***pics*** http://politi.co/2xBrhy3 ... ***Joe on the guitar*** http://politi.co/2wPRPOJ ...

... Bob Barnett, whose birthday is today, wearing a blazer, khakis and blue shoes with orange soles on Main Street in Nantucket on Friday afternoon ... Andy Hemming, who recently left the White House, playing 18 with Webber Steinhoff at the University of Maryland golf course. Hemming shot an 89 and Steinhoff a 79. ... Jonathan Swan, with earbuds firmly embedded in his ears, stopping in Wydown Coffee Bar on Friday morning in the middle of a run.

TRANSITIONS -- JEFF GRAPPONE has been nominated to be assistant secretary of labor for public affairs. He currently is a senior communicator at Siemens USA's corporate HQ and previously was communications director for Sen. Kelly Ayotte (R-N.H.).

-- Curt Black has been promoted to account executive on Google's GOP advertising business. He was previously on the team as an account manager, and is now moving into a lead strategy role. ... United Nations Foundation COO **Rick Parnell** is stepping down on Oct. 1 after 16 years with the foundation in various roles.

ENGAGED - OBAMA ALUMNI -- Casey Hernandez, VP of content at Herbalife Nutrition and former senior communications adviser at Treasury, on Thursday night got

engaged to **Paul Rosen,** a partner at the law firm Crowell and Moring and former chief of staff at DHS. "Paul asked Casey to marry him on a quiet beach in Mallorca, Spain. In the traditional DC way, the Obama admin alums met at the house of their mutual friends Brian and Julia Komar on New Year's Day 2015." ***Pic*** http://politi.co/2xzL2Gb

WELCOME TO THE WORLD -- **Alex Finland,** founder of PR firm Driver Eight Media and a CRAFT and Fox News alum, and private chef **Brooke Finland** welcomed Clark Read Finland, who was born early this morning at Sibley. "Clark weighed in at 8.8 lbs. The baby boy and his mother Brooke are both doing well." ***Pic*** http://politi.co/2gepYBG

- DSCC ALUMNI -- Rachel Jacobs, an associate in the political law practice of Perkins Coie, and **Billy Jacobs,** an associate at Weisbrod Matteis & Copley, welcomed Eli Lawrence Jacobs, who was born Aug. 18 at 8:02 p.m., weighing 6lbs, 1oz, and measuring 19-inches long. ***Pic*** http://bit.ly/2xzA43l

BIRTHWEEK (was yesterday): Zach Cikanek, VP of public affairs at FP1 Strategies (hat tip: fiancé Jolyn Lorenzetti - the couple gets married next weekend in Chicago)

BIRTHDAY OF THE DAY: Jenn Sherman, health press secretary for the House Energy & Commerce Committee. **How she's celebrating:** "My boyfriend [Bill Gray of Issue One] took me to Captiva Island, Florida, earlier this month to celebrate entering into a new decade. On my actual birthday, I'm looking forward to crushing it at Orange Theory Fitness in Navy Yard, some time by the pool, and an epic meal at RPM Italian." **Read her Playbook Plus Q&A:** http://politi.co/2xlrjus

BIRTHDAYS: Robert Barnett ... USA Today's David Jackson ... Tom Ridge, chairman of Ridge Global ... Eric Fehrnstrom ... Joe Weisenthal, co-host of Bloomberg's "What'd You Miss?" and editor at Bloomberg ... Ilyse Hogue, president of NARAL Pro-Choice America, celebrating on Women's Equality Day and her birthday twin Eddie Vale, partner at New Paradigm Strategy (h/ts Amanda Thayer) ... Messina Group partner Sean Sweeney .... LCV alum Navin Nayak, SVP of Corridor Partners ... Amanda Wood ... Robert Flock, associate director of advocacy for legislative affairs at Credit Union National Association (h/t girlfriend Remley Johnson) ... Devan Cayea of Gov. Cuomo's D.C. office ... Jim Harris ... Satyam Khanna ... BuzzFeed world editor Miriam Elder (h/ts Ben Smith and Ben Chang) ... Evan Zimmerman ... journalist Stephen J. Dubner, co-author of the Freakonomics series ... Patrick Dorton, partner at Rational 360 and a Clinton WH alum (h/t Brian Bartlett) ...

... D.C. white-collar lawyer Justin Dillon, partner at KaiserDillon ... Francis Morris ... Brooke Barrios ... Ammar Akkash ... Kiran Chetry ... Julian Epstein ... Myles Miller ... Keith T. Tomatore ... Ari Ratner, founder and CEO of Inside Revolution and an Obama alum ... Kirk Anderson ... Kimberly Overbeek ... Andrew Ross of Sen. Isakson's office ... Lee Ann Calaway ... Thomas Rice ... Tiffany Cox ... Steve Tomaszweski ... Corey Cooke ... former Rep. Mel Watt (D-N.C.) ... AP alum Jamal Halaby ... Jason Goings ... Jackie Smith ... Don Sweitzer ... Kate Sienicki ... Tiana Robison (h/ts Teresa Vilmain) ... Don Preston, head of gov't affairs in the Americas at Swiss Re ... Bill Moore ... Barclays

Capital alum David Stroud ... George Edwards ... journalist Arthur MacMillan ... broadcast journalist Bill Whitaker ... Melissa McCarthy ... Macaulay Culkin ... Chris Pine (h/ts AP)

THE SHOWS, by @MattMackowiak, filing from Austin:

-- CNN's "State of the Union": FEMA Administrator Brock Long ... Virginia Gov. Terry McAuliffe. Panel: Mary Katharine Ham, Jennifer Granholm, Michael Caputo and Karine Jean-Pierre.

-- ABC'S "This Week": Tom Bossert ... Zalmay Khalilzad ... Douglas Lute. Panel: Matthew Dowd, Roland Martin, Julie Pace, Jen Psaki and Chris Ruddy

-- "Fox News Sunday": Secretary of State Rex Tillerson. Panel: Karl Rove, Catherine Lucey, Josh Holmes and Juan Williams

-- NBC's "Meet the Press": Ohio Gov. John Kasich ... Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-Ohio). Panel: Yamiche Alcindor, Washington Post columnist Michael Gerson, Danielle Pletka and Katy Tur

-- CBS's "Face the Nation": Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) ... Tom Donilon, Navy Adm. James Winnefeld (Ret.). Panel: Ben Domenech, Clarence Page, Susan Page, Amy Walter and Tim Bossert (substitute host: CBS News' Major Garrett)

-- CNN's "Inside Politics" with John King: Margaret Talev, Jonathan Martin, Manu Raju and Jeff Zeleny (substitute host: Nia-Malika Henderson)

-- CNN's "Reliable Sources": Panel: Joanne Lipman, Lydia Polgreen and Jeff Greenfield ... David Zurawik ... Kurt Bardella ... Clarissa Ward

-- Fox News' "Sunday Morning Futures": Kelli Ward ... Bill Browder ... Rep. Jason Chaffetz ... Rep. Ron DeSantis (R-Fla). Panel: Steve Sigmund and Caitlin Huey-Burns

-- Fox News' "MediaBuzz": Erin McPike ... Mo Elleithee ... Emily Jashinsky ... Rich Lowry ... Ed Henry ... Will Leitch

-- CNN's "Fareed Zakaria GPS": Special episode: "Why Trump Won" featuring Nate Silver, Mahoning County, Ohio Democratic Party Chairman David Betras, David Brooks, Thomas Frank, George Packer and Tony Schwartz

-- Univision's "Al Punto": Illia Calderón ... Joe Arpaio Clarissa Martínez-de-Castro ... Venezuelan opposition leaders Lechería Mayor Gustavo Marcano and Chacao Mayor Ramón Muchacho ... Dr. Juan Rivera) ... Olga Tañón ... Cecilia Suárez

-- C-SPAN: "The Communicators": Interviews from the Microsoft tech fair in Washington with Microsoft VP of Government Affairs Fred Humphries and Microsoft

researcher Ranveer Chandra ... **"Newsmakers":** Neil Bradley, questioned by The Washington Post's Heather Long and Bloomberg News' Sahil Kapur ... **"Q&A":** Thomas Ricks

-- Washington Times' "Mack on Politics" weekly politics podcast with Matt Mackowiak (download on iTunes, Google Play, or Stitcher or listen at http://bit.ly/2r37J6h): Yahoo News' Jon Ward, currently working on a book about the 1980 Democratic presidential primary between President Jimmy Carter and then-Sen. Ted Kennedy.

****** **A message from Chevron** : This is a story about DOERS, butterflies, and buckwheat. In '75, the endangered El Segundo Blue butterfly was found near a Chevron refinery. We protected the habitat and planted the only thing they eat-buckwheat. We're still planting and keeping an eye on our littlest neighbor. Watch the video: http://politi.co/2ie5v0A ******

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Subject: POLITICO's Morning Transportation, presented by Delta Air Lines: Will Trump's support help ATC overhaul get off the ground? — Same old hurdles — Legislative work piles up

By Lauren Gardner and Tanya Snyder | 06/06/2017 10:00 AM EDT

With help from Brianna Gurciullo, Stephanie Beasley and Kathryn A. Wolfe

IS TRUMP ENOUGH? On Monday President Donald Trump ceremoniously "signed" a set of documents pledging his support for separating air traffic control from the FAA and outlining the principles Congress must enshrine to win his support. It's a big shot in the arm for efforts to change the way air traffic control is operated - but will it be enough?

Same old hurdles: There's no denying Trump's support - not only this week, but sustained over the next few months - is key. But the principles he endorsed Monday do little to change the dynamics of the debate on Capitol Hill and off, and the reality is that the same constituencies that tanked a similar effort by House Transportation Chairman Bill Shuster (R-Pa.) are still in play, from senators reluctant to endorse what some view as a kick in the teeth for rural and general aviation interests to tax-writers and appropriators in both chambers loath to give up jurisdiction.

Key messaging point: The axle on which much of Trump (and Shuster's) rhetorical argument about why their plan is better balances is the extent to which you believe that the FAA is a shuffling bureaucratic golem incapable of realizing NextGen. Trump and his advisers spent Monday arguing that the shift they seek will increase safety by unmooring the air traffic organization from the vagaries of Congress and its herky-jerky appropriations process and supercharging the timeline for NextGen. But critics of the proposal say the FAA has already implemented large pieces of NextGen's functionality and that the rest is soon to come; they counter that the disruptive transition would end up setting things back.

WELCOME TO TUESDAY: Thanks for tuning in to POLITICO's Morning Transportation, your daily tipsheet on all things trains, planes, automobiles and ports. Send us tips, feedback and lyrics to tsnyder@politico.com or @TSnyderDC and lgardner@politico.com or @Gardner_LM.

"Like a million elephants and silverback orangutans / You can't stop a train / Who want some? Don't come unprepared ... "

Want to keep up with MT's song picks? Follow our Spotify playlist.

Thune tepid: Commerce Committee Chairman John Thune's cautious reaction to Trump's announcement underscored the need for "bipartisan support as well as a consensus among the aviation community on a way forward" - a consensus that doesn't yet exist. Meanwhile, even allies of Shuster's plan, like the National Air Traffic Controllers Association, are awaiting more details before they come take a formal position on Trump's version, though the principles would appear to hew to what NATCA needs to ensure its support.

Just where is NATCA?: In his remarks, Trump seemed to suggest that NATCA supports his effort, saying "crucially, these reforms are supported by air traffic controllers themselves. They're the ones that know the systems themselves. They know it better than anybody." However, while NATCA has endorsed Shuster's bill, they so far have only said they are reviewing Trump's plan. Later, White House Deputy Press Secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders said NATCA had attended the White House briefing along with other supporters of Trump's proposal; NATCA told us later that in fact the group was not there.

What would the plan do? Many details remain to be filled in, but the biggest difference between what Trump endorsed and what Shuster put forward last year appears to be the makeup of the new entity's governing board, which in Trump's plan would appear to give the airline industry less overt dominance, and would guarantee airports a seat. As our Kathryn A. Wolfe and Brianna Gurciullo report, Trump and his advisers have promised this new system would result in less fees for passengers and repeatedly noted that a similar nonprofit Canadian system has cut costs.

THREE-BILL PILEUP: While Trump's infrastructure week aims to put more meat on the bones of one of the president's top legislative priorities, his ambitious pitches - remember rewriting the health care law and tackling a tax code overhaul? - add on to an already jampacked congressional calendar that threatens to collapse under its weight, our Lauren Gardner and POLITICO's Andrew Restuccia report . On infrastructure, lawmakers are largely still in the discussion stages, with House T&I members divvying up the work by focusing on issues areas where they each ave expertise, Rail Subcommittee Chairman Jeff Denham told MT - though the wild card of whether or not a package will hitch a ride with tax legislation remains. "It could change the timeline quite a bit, depending," he said.

'Describe your perfect date': Former Transportation Secretary (and congressman) Ray LaHood told MT what's been on the minds of many in Washington - there's a limited time frame for Congress and administrations to pass heavy-lift bills (especially if there's going to be any serious effort to address sustainable revenue streams for things like roads), and it's getting to be crunch time. If "Congress doesn't really begin to start talking about the funding alternatives by the August recess, I think a lot of time has been lost and I think we're right back behind the curve again in terms of getting anything done," LaHood said. "The tough votes need to be taken this year," he added - though perhaps April 25, 2018, could still be in the cards, because all you need then is a light jacket.

Side note: Trump is expected to meet with top GOP congressional leaders today. We have some guesses as to what issues may come up.

** **A message from Delta Air Lines:** Our daily briefing: At Delta we're constantly innovating to make your travel smoother. We tapped RFID technology to keep your bags in check at all times. Giving you more peace of mind from check-in to baggage claim. Learn more: delta.com/dca **

ADVERSARIES ABOUND ON ATC: Democrats predictably lit into Trump's plan; here's one of the more colorful quotes from Sen. Chuck Schumer: The plan would "put the same airline companies who have added baggage fees, change fees and shrunk leg room in charge of the air

traffic control system," leaving consumers with higher fees and fewer protections. He also bashed Trump's $1 trillion infrastructure proposal, rolling out a new phrase that you can expect to be hearing more of: "Trump tolls."

GA makes hay: General aviation groups piled on the hate. Here's a sampling to whet your appetite: National Air Transportation Association President Martin Hiller said the FAA's safety and air traffic wings are "already separate entities" so further separation isn't needed, and that the FAA "has given us the world's best safety record. There is no conflict of interest at the FAA." And Mark Baker, president and CEO of the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association, has "consistently said we will not support policies that impose user fees on general aviation." National Business Aviation Association President and CEO Ed Bolen said "the recent discussion about privatization is really about the airlines' push to gain more control over our air traffic control system, so that they can run it for their own benefit."

Between the lines: Delta Air Lines, which infamously left Airlines for America last year in part because they disagreed with the trade group's air traffic control overhaul position, was present at the White House briefing, which appears to have only been attended by supporters. When asked if the airline now supports removing air traffic control operations from the FAA, Delta spokeswoman Elizabeth Wolf would say only that the airline "looks forward to working with the administration and Congress on our shared goal of modernizing U.S. airspace. We remain committed to working together to identify ways to reduce delays, improve efficiency, and enhance airline performance while maximizing safety and minimizing costs."

Nary a peep: The chairmen of the House and Senate tax-writing and appropriations committees didn't put out statements on the ATC principles Monday. Both committees are integral to getting any proposal to Trump's desk.

DON'T HAVE AN ICAO: Amid all of the chatter about the United States possibly expanding an in-flight electronics ban, ICAO Council President Olumuyiwa Benard Aliu told airline CEOs Monday that the organization has established a task force to review security risks from explosives planted in laptops and other portable devices. The task force is expected to complete its investigation by September. In the meantime, Aliu urged airlines to ensure they balance safety and security when considering requirements for passengers to store large electronics in checked baggage.

NEW BLOOD: Trump tapped Steven Bradbury to be general counsel of Transportation and David Pekoske to be an assistant secretary of Homeland Security at TSA Monday evening. Bradbury is a litigator whose practice focuses on antitrust issues, rulemaking and regulatory enforcement with extensive experience with automotive safety and airline competition issues, having represented the Takata Corporation, American Airlines and US Airways in DOT proceedings. Pekoske is a retired Coast Guard vice commandant, the second-in-command and chief operating officer. Since retiring from the Coast Guard, he has worked in the government services industry on the provision of homeland security and intelligence related services.

ABOUT YOUR TRIP TO NEW YORK THIS SUMMER ... Amtrak, NJ TRANSIT and Long Island Rail Road have come up with their maintenance schedule for Penn Station's "summer of

agony," as New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo calls it. They're shooting to do most of the work on weekends, but between July 10 and September 1, there will be three fewer Northeast Regional trains each way between New York and Washington. Check here for changes to the Keystone, Empire and Crescent lines.

TODAY IN DELAYS: NHTSA has stayed the effective date of its minimum sound standards for hybrid and electric vehicles until Sept. 5, the agency said in a notice posted late Friday to the Federal Register website. The extra time is needed in part for regulators to respond to petitions for reconsideration of the requirements.

IT'S A BIRD, IT'S A PLANE, IT'S A DRONE LOBBYIST! Matthew Satterley, former legislative director for Rep. Frank LoBiondo (R-N.J.), is now registered to lobby for AirMap on the execution of the most recent FAA extension, "unmanned traffic management" and matters connected to the Drone Advisory Committee.

THE AUTOBAHN:

- "U.S. plans to update self-driving guidelines in coming months." Reuters.

- "Metro failed to clear hard drives of computers put up for auction." NBC Washington.

- "Amtrak ends some speed limits blamed for daily travel delays." The Associated Press.

- "Why Trump's plan to privatize air traffic control could end up costing more." Vox.

- "Trump's plan to privatize air traffic control could expedite drone delivery in the U.S." Recode.

- "Trump loves his rural base, but will they lose under his plan to privatize FAA?" McClatchy.

- "Silicon Valley has explaining to do on robo cars, Chao says." Bloomberg.

- "Airline-industry profit outlook improves as Europe bounces back." Bloomberg.

- "U.S. judge may tap Feinberg to run $1 bln Takata compensation fund." Reuters.

THE COUNTDOWN: DOT appropriations run out in 117 days. The FAA reauthorization expires in 117 days. Highway and transit policy is up for renewal in 1,213 days.

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Our pursuit of constantly solving problems doesn't stop there. Turbulence is notoriously difficult to predict. That's why we developed our industry-leading Flight Weather Viewer app. It helps our pilots better spot and avoid unexpected turbulence with real-time graphics of observations and forecasts on the flight deck. Making your journey smoother while also reducing our carbon

footprint.
Learn more: delta.com/dca **

To view online:
http://www.politico.com/tipsheets/morning-transportation/2017/06/06/will-trumps-support-help-atc-overhaul-get-off-the-ground-220689

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From: POLITICO
Sent: Thur 6/29/2017 3:51:17 PM
Subject: BREAKING NEWS: Ryan calls Trump tweet attacking 'Morning Joe' host 'inappropriate'

Speaker Paul Ryan criticized President Donald Trump on Thursday for a crude attack on MSNBC host Mika Brzezinski's physical appearance.

"I don't see that as an appropriate comment," Ryan said at a press conference, less than three hours after Trump ridiculed "low I.Q. Crazy Mika" for "bleeding badly from a face-lift."

Read more: http://www.politico.com/story/2017/06/29/ryan-calls-trump-tweet-attacking-morning-joe-host-inappropriate-240092

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From: POLITICO
Sent: Thur 6/8/2017 7:10:58 PM
Subject: BREAKING NEWS: Trey Gowdy picked by GOP steering committee to chair House Oversight panel

The Republican Steering Committee on Thursday backed Rep. Trey Gowdy to become the next chairman of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee.

The move - if confirmed by the full GOP Conference - would put the South Carolina Republican at the helm of a contentious probe into President Donald Trump's decision to fire FBI Director James Comey. Gowdy, a former federal prosecutor, is known for chairing the House Benghazi investigation and has also been a leading member of the Intelligence Committee's probe of Moscow's interference in the 2016 election.

Gowdy would replace outgoing Oversight Committee Chairman Jason Chaffetz (R-Utah), who will resign at the end of June.

Read more: http://www.politico.com/story/2017/06/08/trey-gowdy-picked-by-gop-steering-committee-to-chair-house-oversight-panel-239308

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To: Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
From: Morning Score
Sent: Tue 6/6/2017 2:04:59 PM
Subject: POLITICO's Morning Score: Elections today in CA-34, New Jersey — DCCC invests $275K in South Carolina House race — Black Democrats get early party backing for governor

By Daniel Strauss | 06/06/2017 10:00 AM EDT

With Scott Bland, Kevin Robillard, Elena Schneider and Bianca Padró Ocasio

The following newsletter is an abridged version of Campaign Pro's Morning Score. For an earlier morning read on exponentially more races - and for a more comprehensive aggregation of the day's most important campaign news - sign up for Campaign Pro today. (http://www.politicopro.com/proinfo)

ELECTION DAY - Democrat-versus-Democrat special in Latino-heavy CA-34 could make history for Koreans, by the Los Angeles Times' Christine Mai-Duc: "[Democrat Jimmy] Gomez, who has been endorsed by Becerra, would continue a decades-long tradition of Latino representation in a district where more than half of the voters are Latino. [Democrat Robert Lee] Ahn would be the first Korean American Democrat elected to Congress, and only the second Korean American ever. ... With few major policy differences between the two candidates, Gomez has tried to cast his opponent as too centrist for this deep blue district, while Ahn has said his local roots and private sector experience will help him better address the quality-of-life issues residents face. ... But, while a surge in Korean American voters in the primary helped Ahn break through a crowded field to make the runoff, they make up just 6% of the electorate. Even if the primary's low turnout holds for the runoff, it will be impossible for Ahn to win with just Korean American votes. With Gomez touting progressive policies he's supported in the Legislature and dozens of endorsements from the party establishment and progressive groups, Ahn has taken up the mantle of a political outsider who is an alternative to the perceived Latino political dynasty." **Full story.**

- ... THAT SAID ... - Korean-American early ballot returns actually surpassed Latino returns, according to this tracker from California voter-data guru Paul Mitchell. That's despite Latinos outnumbering Koreans about 8-to-1 among registered voters in CA-34.

- Also on tap Tuesday night: New Jersey's gubernatorial primaries. Democrat Phil Murphy and GOP Lt. Gov. Kim Guadagno are favored, but nothing's over these days until the votes are counted. Follow along **here** with the POLITICO New Jersey crew.

CASH INFUSION - "DCCC makes small investment in South Carolina contest," by Campaign Pro's Kevin Robillard: "The Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee is making a small investment in the special election to replace OMB Director Mick Mulvaney, sending $275,000 to help out Democrat Archie Parnell...The cash will go toward three full-time organizers for the Parnell campaign, ads on African-American radio, direct mail and digital spots, and especially target black churchgoers over the next two weekends. In a statement, a DCCC spokesman framed the cash as much a potential learning opportunity ahead of the midterms as a chance to help Parnell win." **Read more.**

- Parnell re-releases two new television ads: The Democrat is the only candidate on television right now. **Here are his two spots.**

CAMPAIGN FINANCE DEADLINE - Gillespie has $2.4 million hand for Virginia governor: Republican Ed Gillespie, his party's likely Virginia gubernatorial nominee, will start the general election with a significant money edge over either Lt. Gov. Ralph Northam or Former Rep. Tom Perriello. His campaign announced he had $2.4 million on hand after banking $1.1 million in the runup to next Tuesday's primary. That's significantly more than Northam ($1.3 million) or Perriello ($734,000), who have spent millions boosting themselves ahead of a competitive primary.

- Perriello gets more big-donor cash: Perriello continued to rely on big donors to fund his campaign, taking in an additional $250,000 from liberal philanthropist and hedge fund manager George Soros and $300,000 from another hedge fund manager, Donald Sussman. The Avaaz Foundation, a non-profit Perriello co-founded, chipped in another $150,000. (Oh, and Dave Matthews, the Charlottesville-based leader of the Dave Matthews Band, donated $10,000.)

- Summaries: Perriello raised about $1.9 million, spent $3 million, and had $734,000 left after June 1, while Northam raised $2 million, spent $4 million and had $1.3 million on hand. **Full story.**

RYAN AIR - "Ryan ramps up fundraising to protect the House," by POLITICO's Rachael Bade: "The Wisconsin Republican's political team on Tuesday morning will announce that Ryan has raised $22 million for House Republicans in the first five months of 2017, setting him on track to far outpace his 2016 fundraising haul. Over the same period last year, an election year, Ryan hauled in $16.5 million. In the month of May alone Ryan transferred $2 million to the National Republican Congressional Committee. And since the House voted on the controversial health care bill, he's also attended nearly 50 events in 13 states. ... This week ... Ryan will also headline fundraising receptions for vulnerable Congressional Republican David Valadao of California; New Jersey Republican Tom MacArthur, who helped save the Obamacare repeal bill but who has seen monstrous blowback at home for his efforts; Rep. Rodney Davis of Illinois; and Ralph Norman, the candidate running to replace former congressman and White House budget director Mick Mulvaney in South Carolina." **Full story.**

Days until the 2017 election: 153.

Days until the 2018 election: 517.

Thanks for joining us.You can email tips to the Campaign Pro team at sbland@politico.com, eschneider@politico.com, krobillard@politico.com and dstrauss@politico.com.

You can also follow us on Twitter: @politicoscott, @ec_schneider, @politicokevin and @danielstrauss4.

OFF MESSAGE PODCAST: Donald Trump has a staffing problem. And that's slowing

operations and brewing complaints even among his closest allies including Linda McMahon, his appointed Small Business Administrator. McMahon, a close friend and ally of Donald Trump who is best known for her wrestling business-turned-empire WWE, sits down with Isaac Dovere in this week's Off Message podcast. Listen and subscribe: iTunes | Panoply | S titcher

GOV WATCH - "Abrams, other black Democrats get early backing for governor," by Campaign Pro's Kevin Robillard: "More black Democrats have already launched 2018 gubernatorial runs than in any year in recent memory, and liberal mega-donors and grass-roots groups are quickly rallying around several candidates whose progressive messaging stands out against past Democratic campaigns for governor. Seventeen months before Election Day, five major black candidates have declared campaigns for governor: state legislator Stacey Abrams in Georgia, former NAACP President Ben Jealous in Maryland, Tallahassee Mayor Andrew Gillum in Florida, former Wichita Mayor Carl Brewer in Kansas, and Newton Mayor Setti Warren in Massachusetts." **Full story.**

- Abrams getting a big-donor boost: "Susan Sandler, a top Democratic Party donor, is organizing an effort to raise between $12 million and $15 million to back Abrams and to register and turn out an additional 250,000 irregular voters in Georgia. 'After a couple hundred years, it's time to elect a black woman governor,' said Steve Phillips, Sandler's husband. Phillips said top donors could launch similar efforts for Gillum in Florida and Jealous in Maryland. 'There's an appreciation that the tickets need to reflect the changing voting populations.' In a letter to other major donors, Sandler described Abrams' run as "strategic, inspiring, historic.'"

- Jealous hires Sanders consultants: Jealous has hired a slew of consultants with ties to Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders' presidential bid for his campaign, including campaign manager Travis Tazelaar, a former executive director of the Maryland Democratic Party who was on Sanders' steering committee in the state, along with media consultants Devine Mulvey Longabaugh and digital consultants Revolution Messaging. Not everyone was involved on Team Sanders, though. Hilltop Solutions' Bill Hyers and Rebecca Katz will serve as general consultant and communications consultant. Fred Yang of Garin-Hart-Yang will handle polling, and Addisu Demissie of 50+1 Strategies will serve as a fundraising consultant. Kevin Harris, who was a senior adviser to the Hillary Clinton campaign and previously worked for Baltimore Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake, will be communications director. Erica Bernstein, who also worked for the Clinton campaign, will be the finance director.

SCOTUS WATCH - The Supreme Court held that North Carolina's legislative map illegally packed African-American voters, but it did not call for the state to conduct special elections under a new map in 2017, The Raleigh News and Observer reported. The Supreme Court ordered the lower court to reconsider. Republicans praised the Supreme Court's decision to stop off-year special election, arguing it "would have disenfranchised millions of voters," the state's GOP Party chairman Robin Hayes said in a statement. Democratic Gov. Roy Cooper, meanwhile, said: "Whether the election is November 2018 or earlier, redrawing the districts is good for our democracy by leveling the playing field for free and fair elections."

A PUSH FOR PAPER IN GEORGIA'S SPECIAL ELECTION - A Superior Court judge this week will hear a case being brought against Georgia Secretary of State Brian Kemp that calls for

the Peach State to stop using its voting machines in Georgia's 6th Congressional District special election between Democrat Jon Ossoff and Republican Karen Handel. Election day is June 20, but early voting started on May 30. "Georgia's voter system is not federally certified, although the state has touted federal certification for years, and the system no longer meets federal certification standards - even the 1990 standards the state previously applied," said Donna Curling, a plaintiff in the case brought by Georgians for Verified Voting, in a statement. "The only way to ensure we have a secure election in June is to use paper ballots."

TEAMING UP - "OFA teams with new progressive organization Swing Left to train volunteers" by Daniel Strauss: "The liberal grassroots group Swing Left is teaming up with Organizing for Action, the nonprofit rooted in former President Barack Obama's presidential campaigns, to train volunteers and community organizers in the leadup to the August congressional recess. Together, Swing Left and OFA are hosting a set of webinars to train volunteers on interacting with members of Congress and constituents. The first webinar starts on Wednesday and will be followed by three other similar training seminars in late June and July." **Read more.**

- STAFFING UP - "Priorities USA hires up ahead of 2018," by POLITICO's Gabriel Debenedetti: "Josh Schwerin, a national spokesman for Clinton who previously worked at the DCCC and for Virginia Gov. Terry McAuliffe, will be the group's communications director. Priorities is also bringing on Tristan Wilkerson, who worked on national constituency outreach for Bernie Sanders, as a special adviser for voter protection and political outreach. Wilkerson, a former staffer for the liberal CREDO super PAC and Del. Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-D.C.), will work on the voting rights efforts that Priorities has been involved with since merging with Every Citizen Counts in December...In addition, Priorities re-signed media consultants Saul Shorr and Adam Magnus after their group, Shorr Johnson Magnus, served as the super PAC's main ad-maker in the 2016 cycle." **Read more**.

CODA - QUOTE OF THE DAY: "There were days that I was like, 'This is an easy yes!' Then there were days I was like, 'Oh, I can't vote for this thing.'" - Rep. David Valadao (R-Calif.), on the GOP effort to sell Obamacare repeal, via POLITICO.

To view online:
http://www.politico.com/tipsheets/morning-score/2017/06/06/elections-today-in-ca-34-new-jersey-220680

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From: POLITICO
Sent: Mon 6/26/2017 8:26:46 PM
Subject: BREAKING NEWS: CBO says Senate repeal bill would leave 22M more uninsured

The Senate's Obamacare repeal bill would leave 22 million more Americans uninsured over a decade, according to a CBO analysis of the legislation. That represents just a small improvement over the coverage losses that CBO estimated for the House-passed version of the repeal bill, and could further complicate Senate Republicans' dash toward a vote by the end of this week.

The Senate bill would also cut the federal deficit by $321 billion over 10 years, driven by deep reductions to Medicaid and skimpier subsidies to help people buy insurance. Those savings exceed the $133 billion bar set by the House bill, meeting one of the requirements for Republicans to pass the Senate bill through an expedited process requiring just 51 votes. The Senate legislation scored by CBO includes a just-inserted "continuous coverage" provision mandating that people remain insured or risk being locked out of the market for at least six months.

Read more: http://www.politico.com/story/2017/06/26/cbo-senate-health-care-bill-239967

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To: Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
From: Anna Palmer and Jake Sherman
Sent: Mon 5/29/2017 2:04:47 PM
Subject: POLITICO Playbook, presented by Morgan Stanley: The inside look at JARED -- Trump's obsession with Russia scandal grows -- FIRST IN PLAYBOOK: JOSH GREEN'S BANNON book out July 18 -- Caygle and Lorenzo wed in Ala. -- MUST-READ RICH RUBIN on tax reform

View online version | Add politicoplaybook@politico.com to your address book.

Today's PLAYBOOK presented by Morgan Stanley
05/29/2017 10:00 AM EDT

By JAKE SHERMAN (sherman@politico.com; @JakeSherman) and ANNA PALMER (anna@politico.com; @apalmerdc) with DANIEL LIPPMAN (daniel@politico.com; @dlippman)

Driving the Day

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FIRST IN PLAYBOOK -- JOSH GREEN'S NEW BOOK: "THE DEVIL'S BARGAIN: Steve Bannon, Donald Trump, and the Storming of the Presidency" -- Josh wrote the first big profile of Steve Bannon in a cover story for Bloomberg Businessweek back in Oct. 2015 (https://bloom.bg/2rwU3Ri). On July 18, he'll release "The Devil's Bargain," which chronicles the campaign -- and Bannon's influence -- from the inside. ***The very cool cover*** http://bit.ly/2reBVL5 ... ***Pre-order on Amazon for $27.00 or $13.99 on Kindle*** http://amzn.to/2rcLnws

Happy Monday and Memorial Day. THE BIG DAY-OFF READ ...

-- NYT A1, GLENN THRUSH, MAGGIE HABERMAN and **SHARON LaFRANIERE, "Jared Kushner's Role Is Tested as Russia Case Grows":** "In a statement Sunday night, Mr. Trump praised his son-in-law and the work he has done in the White House. 'Jared is doing a great job for the country,' he said. 'I have total confidence in him. He is respected by virtually everyone and is working on programs that will save our country billions of dollars. In addition to that, and perhaps more importantly, he is a very good person.' ... [I]n recent weeks, the Trump-Kushner relationship, the most stable partnership in an often unstable West Wing, is showing unmistakable signs of strain. ... It has been duly noted in the White House that Mr. Trump, who feels that he has been ill served by his staff, has increasingly included Mr. Kushner when he dresses down aides and officials, a rarity earlier in his administration and during the campaign.

"The most serious point of contention between the president and his son-in-law ...

was a video clip this month of Mr. Kushner's sister Nicole Meyer pitching potential investors in Beijing on a Kushner Companies condominium project in Jersey City. At one point, Ms. Meyer -- who remains close to Mr. Kushner -- dangled the availability of EB-5 visas to the United States as an enticement for Chinese financiers willing to spend $500,000 or more. For Mr. Trump, Ms. Meyer's performance violated two major rules: Politically, it undercut his immigration crackdown, and in a personal sense, it smacked of profiteering off Mr. Trump - one of the sins that warrants expulsion from his orbit. In the following days during routine West Wing meetings, the president made several snarky, disparaging comments about Mr. Kushner's family and the visas that were clearly intended to express his annoyance ... Mr. Kushner did not respond, at least not in earshot. ...

"[His] unfailing self-regard has not endeared him to the rest of the staff. Resentful Trump staff members have long talked about 'Jared Island' to describe the special status occupied by Mr. Kushner, who, in their view, is given license to exercise power and take on a vague portfolio ... without suffering the consequences of failure visited by the president on mere hirelings. Adding to the animus is Mr. Kushner's aloof demeanor and his propensity for avoiding messy aspects of his job that he would simply rather not do -- he has told associates he wants nothing to do with the legislative process, for instance. ... Mr. Bannon, a onetime Kushner ally turned adversary known for working himself into ill health, has taken to comparing the former real estate executive to 'the air,' because he blows in and out of meetings leaving little trace, according to one senior Trump aide." http://nyti.ms/2sd4bv4

ONE THEME we keep hearing in our conversations with senior White House aides and Capitol Hill stalwarts is "hubris." Jared Kushner has never served in government and thinks he knows all, one person said to us. Why would the president's son in law begin complex conversations with Russia before Trump got into office?

INSIDE THE WEST WING -- HOW TRUMP IS REACTING -- "Trump's obsession over Russia probe deepens: But the president's senior aides say he has yet to decide on a strategy for confronting the crises," by Matt Nussbaum, Josh Dawsey and Eliana Johnson with Alex Isenstadt: "President Donald Trump has been aggressively working the phones since returning this weekend from his foreign trip, talking to friends and outside lawyers as he obsesses over the deepening investigations into his aides and Russia. Two White House officials said Trump and some aides including Steve Bannon are becoming increasingly convinced that they are victims of a conspiracy against Trump's presidency, as evidenced by the number of leaks flowing out of government -- that the crusade by the so-called 'deep state' is a legitimate threat, not just fodder for right wing defenders. ... Senior aides and long-time confidants admitted not knowing who Trump would hire, how safe the jobs of top staff are, what the White House's agenda is for the coming days, or what -- if anything -- they can accomplish." http://politi.co/2qyAH9B

-- @HansNichols: "Spotted at the White House: Trump's personal lawyer Marc Kasowitz meeting with Ivanka at the White House, via @MoshehNBC"

THE LEGISLATIVE REALITY -- LEADING WSJ.COM -- "GOP's Proposed Tax Changes Are No Match for Status Quo: Republicans' boldest ideas for changes are on political life support as plans collide with the tax system's reality," by Rich Rubin: "There's a clear winner in this year's tax policy debate so far: The status quo.

"Republicans are scouring the tax code, searching for breaks to eliminate to offset the deep rate cuts they desire. But the biggest tax breaks are surviving and the boldest ideas for change are on political life support or already dead. Republican proposals for border-adjusting the corporate tax, ending the business interest deduction and making major changes to individual tax breaks for health and retirement all hit resistance within the GOP. The only big revenue-raising provision with anything close to Republican consensus is repealing the deduction for state and local taxes, and that faces objections from blue-state lawmakers in the party.

"The GOP's dreams have collided with interest-group lobbying and the tax system's reality. Politicians all profess to hate the tax code, but they don't agree on exactly what they hate. Voters gripe about complexity but are wary of losing cherished breaks that are woven into the economy." http://on.wsj.com/2r40oCc

****** **A message from Morgan Stanley:** Morgan Stanley helped All Aboard Florida raise capital to bring Brightline, an express railway, to the Sunshine State-potentially cutting travel time across Southern Florida by up to 25-30%1 versus existing options. Investing in infrastructure isn't just good for people-it can be good for cities. Learn more at morganstanley.com/brightline. ******

TRANSLATING TRUMP: THE PRESIDENT tweeted last night: "The massive TAX CUTS/REFORM that I have submitted is moving along in the process very well, actually ahead of schedule. Big benefits to all!"

-- A FEW THINGS TO UNPACK HERE: Tax cuts and reform are two very different things. Tax reform is rewriting the tax code, and perhaps cutting taxes, too. A simple "tax cut" would be much easier to accomplish, but would face stiff resistance from conservatives, who would call it an easy way out. Also: the tax plan that Trump submitted is as dead as can be and IS NOT ahead -- or on -- any schedule. The House Ways and Means Committee and Senate Finance Committee have started their own tax reform process, but it is not ahead of any sort of schedule. It is, though, a work in progress.

TRUMP INC. -- NYT Business Day cover, "The Coat of Arms Said 'Integrity.' Now It Says 'Trump,'" by Danny Hakim in London: "At the Trump National Golf Club outside Washington, which hosted the Senior P.G.A. Championship this weekend, the president's coat of arms is everywhere - the sign out front, the pro shop, even the exercise room. The regal emblem, used at President Trump's golf courses across the United States, sports three lions and two chevrons on a shield, below a gloved hand gripping an arrow. A different coat of arms flies over Mr. Trump's two golf resorts in

Scotland. ... Mr. Trump's American coat of arms belongs to another family. It was granted by British authorities in 1939 to Joseph Edward Davies, the third husband of Marjorie Merriweather Post, the socialite who built the Mar-a-Lago resort that is now Mr. Trump's cherished getaway. In the United States, the Trump Organization took Mr. Davies's coat of arms for its own, making one small adjustment - replacing the word 'Integritas,' Latin for integrity, with 'Trump.'" http://nyti.ms/2sdcM0B

OLIVIA NUZZI in NYMag, "'Is This Even About Seth Rich At All?'": "The people who knew and loved Seth Rich still sometimes speak of him in the present tense. ... They remember his warm, broad smile and his tendency to greet all in his immediate vicinity with a round of high-fives. ... They talk about how much fun he was, how he'd always show up to a party, how he'd always volunteer to be the butt of a joke. There was the time he sported a panda suit at work all day, or when a colleague came over to his desk to find him sitting there holding a cup of coffee and wearing a unicorn mask like it was just business casual. ... They also speak of a son - one who talked to his parents on the phone nearly every day - a brother, a boyfriend, and a friend. They say he was a thoughtful listener and a kind, solid midwesterner. He liked beer and Husker football, and he was the godfather to a cockapoo puppy named Archie." http://nym.ag/2s6TDy3

THE OPPOSITION -- "Sanders revolution hits a rough patch: Bernie's supporters struggle to capture the actual levers of power," by David Siders in Sacramento: "[A] year after Sanders' presidential run fell short, one thing is missing in the afterglow - a reliable string of victories at the ballot box.

"The losses are piling up. Earlier this month, Democrat Heath Mello, whom Sanders campaigned with, failed to unseat a Republican in Omaha's race for mayor. Kimberly Ellis, the candidate endorsed by Our Revolution, the successor group to Sanders' presidential campaign, lost a fiercely contested race for California Democratic Party chair. And on Thursday night, Republican Greg Gianforte bested Rob Quist, another Democrat for whom Sanders campaigned, in a nationally watched House race in Montana. Speaking at a victory party, Gianforte called the election proof 'Bernie Sanders and Nancy Pelosi can't call the shots here in Montana.'" http://politi.co/2qrP4kQ

FIRST LOOK -- The House GOP is out with a new Memorial Day video featuring veterans in the Republican conference - cameos by: Reps. Brian Babin (Texas), Mark Sanford (S.C.), Jeff Denham (Calif.), Ted Poe (Texas), Barry Loudermilk (Ga.), Larry Bucshon (Ind.). ***1-min. video*** http://bit.ly/2sdccjw

PUTIN IN FRANCE -- "Putin visits France, hopes to mend strained ties with West," by AP's Vladimir Isachenkov and Sylvie Corbet in Versailles: "On a trip likely to shape Russia-France ties for years to come, Russian President Vladimir Putin arrived in France on Monday for talks with newly-elected French President Emmanuel Macron -- the candidate he did not back in presidential vote.

"The trip offers the Russian leader a chance to turn the page and try to establish a productive relationship with Macron as the Kremlin struggles to mend its bitter rift with

the West. Macron is the first Western leader to speak to Putin after the Group of Seven summit over the weekend, where relations with Russia were a key topic." http://apne.ws/2rx9MQx

THE PRESIDENT is speaking and laying a wreath at Arlington National Cemetery this morning.

Playbook Reads

PHOTO DU JOUR: Vice President Mike Pence alongside wife Karen, gives a thumbs up to the Indiana National Guard during pre-race festivities at the 101st running of the Indy 500 at Indianapolis Motor Speedway on May 28. | Mykal McEldowney/The Indianapolis Star via AP

WHAT THE FIRST FAMILY IS READING -- DARREN SAMUELSOHN: "Lara Trump's controversial pet issue: First-daughter-in-law advocates for beagles, but her partner's past tactics cause concern": "President Donald Trump's daughter-in-law has taken up a pet issue -- beagle adoption -- that reflects her lifelong interest in animal welfare. One of Lara Trump's partners, however, is a little problematic. Eric Trump's wife has publicly aligned with a controversial animal rights group, the Beagle Freedom Project, whose leadership includes a felon who served a six-year sentence in federal prison for harassing and stalking researchers." http://politi.co/2sduWiN

-- FT: "World Bank helps Trump on US infrastructure plans: Critics say bank is currying favour with advice after creation of 'Ivanka fund,'" by Shawn Donnan: "The World Bank has begun advising the Trump administration on its infrastructure plans, the latest product of a budding relationship between first daughter Ivanka Trump and bank president Jim Yong Kim that is raising eyebrows among bank veterans and governance experts.

"The unusual move grew out of an April 3 White House meeting between Mr. Kim and Ms. Trump to discuss a new $1bn women's entrepreneurship fund championed by Donald Trump's eldest daughter that the bank is trying to set up ahead of a G20 summit in Germany in July. At the end of that April meeting Ms. Trump asked whether the World Bank president wanted to meet her father and then led him to the Oval Office. There, according to people briefed on the meeting, the president was huddled with advisers discussing infrastructure plans, prompting Mr. Kim to offer to help.

"Three days later a team of infrastructure experts from the World Bank was sent to New York to meet members of a new presidential council, according to a World Bank spokesman who confirmed the meetings. 'These conversations continue at an informal level,' he said." http://on.ft.com/2rNRv0Z

DEEP DIVE -- MARGARET TALBOT in The New Yorker, "The Addicts Next Door: West Virginia has the highest overdose death rate in the country. Locals are fighting to save their neighbors-and their towns-from destruction": "According to the Charleston Gazette-Mail, between 2007 and 2012 drug wholesalers shipped to West Virginia seven hundred and eighty million pills of hydrocodone (the generic name for Vicodin) and oxycodone (the generic name for OxyContin). That was enough to give each resident four hundred and thirty-three pills." http://bit.ly/2qyINin

INSIDE HILLARY WORLD -- "The Place Where Letters To Hillary Clinton Go," by BuzzFeed's Ruby Cramer: "At just 30 years old, Rob Russo has been one of Hillary Clinton's closest aides for a decade, organizing and drafting her political and personal correspondence. After the election, his job changed as thousands of strangers starting writing to Clinton. Now he's living through the end of an era, one letter at a time." http://bzfd.it/2s6dYUh

JOSH ROGIN in WaPo, "Inside the Trump administration's plans to restart the Ukraine peace process": "In their Oval Office meeting in March, President Trump told German Chancellor Angela Merkel that the Ukraine crisis was Europe's responsibility and that the United States wouldn't get heavily involved, according to two officials briefed on the discussion. Only two months later, the Trump administration is reversing course and planning to re-engage on Ukraine in a significant way. For Secretary of State Rex Tillerson, who is leading the behind-the-scenes effort, Ukraine is where Trump's so-far thwarted plan to improve U.S.-Russian relations can be kick-started. Although still in its early stages, Tillerson's idea is to restart a version of the peace negotiations that the Obama administration was engaged in last year, hoping that new circumstances and personalities might produce better results." http://wapo.st/2r3NEMc

****** **A message from Morgan Stanley:** Morgan Stanley helped raise the capital needed by innovative company All Aboard Florida to enhance Florida's infrastructure by developing the nation's first express, intercity rail, Brightline. The train, connecting cities across Southern Florida, is expected to cut down on travel time for residents and tourists, and could potentially add up to hundreds of millions in federal, state and local government tax revenue over the next several years.[1] Capital creates better connections for people, communities and cities. Learn more at morganstanley.com/brightline. Capital creates change. ******

ELIOT COHEN in TheAtlantic.com, "What Did Trump Accomplish on His First Foreign Trip? Some firm handshakes, forced smiles, and awkward sword dances. In short, nothing": "It is proof of how low our standards are for judging Trump's competence that he got high marks for delivering speeches more or less accurately, if woodenly, from teleprompters and scripts. He did not declare war on Islam. He spent only 15 minutes at Yad Vashem and left a semi-literate note there, but at least said nothing egregiously stupid. He was polite to the Pope. He said that the Germans were 'bad, very bad' on trade but admired Egyptian president Sisi's shoes. His motorcade was not stormed by angry European leftists. But what did he accomplish?" http://theatln.tc/2rwHXYu

-- **"As Iran and U.S. Leaders Trade Barbs, Big Deals Proceed,"** by NYT's Thomas Erdbrink in Tehran: "President Trump, who has never made a secret of his hostility toward Iran, called recently for a grand regional strategy among Sunni nations to isolate the country. But Tehran received that threat with surprising equanimity because, in practice, the Trump administration has shown a willingness to do business with the country. ...

"Tough talk from both sides, but back in Iran, they are awaiting the delivery of a fleet of American-made Boeing airliners, the result of two deals worth $22 billion for the United States company. The most recent contract between the plane maker and the Iranian airline Iran Aseman was signed two months after President Trump was sworn into office." http://nyti.ms/2s6nE0S

THE GLOBAL POLITICO PODCAST - SUSAN GLASSER, "How the British Election Looks Like America's": "Steve Hilton, who served as the Conservatives' top strategist in the last British general election before falling out with his close friend, May's predecessor David Cameron, over Brexit. In a new interview for The Global Politico, Hilton says May has not followed through on the 'political revolution' that brought Brexit and Trump to the U.S. with a comparable 'policy revolution'-nor does she seem likely to after a campaign that at times now seems reminiscent of last year's American contest." http://politi.co/2sdqlwX ... ***Transcript*** http://politi.co/2sdJ8bu ... ***Subscribe*** http://apple.co/2kJ9q1U

PLAYBOOK METRO SECTION -- "One D.C. school lost more than a quarter of its teaching staff this year," by WaPo's Alejandra Matos: "The vacancies hit hardest in schools that already face numerous academic challenges, according to data The Washington Post obtained through a Freedom of Information Act request.

"At Ballou High School in Southeast Washington, more than a quarter of the faculty quit after starting work in August. Many of their classrooms now have long-term substitutes. Dwight Harris, 16, an 11th-grader, said his Algebra 2 class has been chaotic since his first teacher left in January. 'No one is teaching. It's been like that for months now,' Harris said. 'We don't do anything, so I leave and go to my biology class or English class and go do other work.'

"Most teachers wait until summer to call it quits, but in DCPS a rising number are leaving during the school year. The mid-year resignation rate for DCPS was higher than for some other urban school systems The Post checked. In the D.C. system, 184 of about 4,000 teachers -- nearly 5 percent -- quit from September to mid-May. That was a 44 percent increase over the 128 teachers who left in the 2013-2014 school year." http://wapo.st/2qyK8Gb

MOLLY BALL reviews Al Franken's "Giant of the Senate" for the **NYT** http://nyti.ms/2qrJsXM

PLAYBOOKERS' VACATION PIX - Josh and Melissa Sharp spent the week leading into Memorial Day touring the Amalfi Coast, Pompeii and Germany's Neuschwanstein Castle. ***Pics*** http://bit.ly/2qrHXIY ... http://bit.ly/2qrve9r... http://bit.ly/2reQkqG ... A Playbooker in Monaco attending yesterday's Grand Prix sends a shot of German Sebastian Vettel's car in the lead driving for Ferrari, which won for the first time in 16 years http://bit.ly/2qrvmpr ... ***The winning car before the race*** http://bit.ly/2qrx8H0

... **Dr. Tomicah Tillemann**, director of Bretton Woods II and Blockchain at the New America Foundation and a former speechwriter and senior advisor to Hillary at State, and his wife **Sarah Tillemann** , alum of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, write in: "We've been with our five little ones reconnecting with the values of sacrifice, service and love of country at the site of the D-Day landings. We walked past a quote from General Mark Clark en route to the grave sites at Omaha Beach: 'If ever proof were needed that we fought for a cause and not for conquest, it could be found in these cemeteries. Here was our only conquest: all we asked was enough soil in which to bury our gallant dead.' There is no more powerful reminder of why democracy, decency, and the defense of human rights have always been at the core of America's greatness and the foundation of our most powerful alliances. Let's keep it that way..." ***Pix*** http://bit.ly/2rclYmL

Playbookers

SPOTTED -- Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg at The Studio theatre performance last night of "The Father" with Ted Van Griethuysen as a man diagnosed with dementia. The show got a standing ovation and Ginsburg went immediately backstage after the performance. ... Secretary of State Rex Tillerson yesterday riding a maroon Harley-Davidson during Rolling Thunder -- ***pic*** http://bit.ly/2reABb5 ... Tony Podesta and Vin Roberti at the amfAR "making AIDS history" fundraiser at the Hotel Du Cap in Cap d'Antibes -- ***pic*** http://bit.ly/2rxladQ

WEEKEND WEDDINGS -- THE PRIDE OF TAMPA TIES THE KNOT, MARRIES UP -- "Heather Caygle, Aaron Lorenzo" -- N.Y. Times: "The bride, 29, and groom, 41, cover Congress for Politico. Ms. Caygle [author of Huddle] graduated from the University of Alabama at Birmingham and received a master's degree in journalism from American University. ... Mr. Lorenzo ... graduated from Boston University ... The couple met in Washington in 2013 while working as reporters at Bloomberg BNA. They had desks next to each other for more than a year before the groom worked up the courage to ask her out." ***With pic*** http://nyti.ms/2s9M2OF

POOL REPORT from Seung Min Kim: The "emotional ceremony ... featured personal vows, a touching reading from POLITICO's Anthony Adragna and a starring role for their corgi/chihuahua mix, Biggie Smalls, who served as ring bearer [***pic:*** http://bit.ly/2quuxrE]. Then it was off to Iron City, where the bride and groom made a grand entrance to the Stevie Wonder classic 'Signed, Sealed, Delivered' as friends and family -- some who

traveled from as far away as Canada -- cheered the newlyweds on. Other highlights: Heather's surprise mother-daughter dance for mom Kitty, which left the crowd in tears; an elaborate groom's cake for Aaron shaped like a grill, and oversized cutout heads of Heather, Aaron and Biggie that the partygoers waved on the dance floor." ***Wedding pics*** http://bit.ly/2r3HueU ... http://bit.ly/2rc6U8M ... http://bit.ly/2qrH4jV

SPOTTED: A strong showing of Politicos past and present, and their loved ones: Kevin Robillard and Lindy Stevens, Adam Snider and Emma Dumain, Seung Min Kim and Jeff Lee, Lauren Gardner and Patrick Ambrosio, Connor O'Brien, bridesmaid Kate Tummarello, Erin Mershon, Bernie Becker and Adriane Casalotti. Also spotted: Matt Fuller, who has impressive dance moves, and Jonathan Nicholson.

--"Anna Greenberg, Dana Milbank" - Times: "Dr. Greenberg, 48, is a partner in Greenberg Quinlan Rosner Research, a polling firm in Washington. She graduated cum laude from Cornell and received a Ph.D. in political science from the University of Chicago. ... The bride's father [Stan] is the founding partner at Greenberg Quinlan Rosner Research. ... Mr. Milbank, 49, is a syndicated columnist with The Washington Post. He graduated cum laude from Yale. ... The couple met at a party in Washington in October 2001 and went on a blind date 14 years later, in February 2015." ***With pic*** http://nyti.ms/2qs1Xal

-- POOL REPORT, with the subject line "In-town pool report #1 -- Milbank/Greenberg nuptials" from Julie Mason: "Two hundred guests sat on folding wooden chairs in the hall [at Eastern Market], warmly lit by overhead string lights, orange-hued footlights and flickering candles under glass. ... Male guests wore yarmulkes in dove-grey satin ... The couple read the Ketubah, had the blessings and broke the glasses. More than one eye in the room sparkled bright with a tear -- one less bachelor in Washington! ... In his own remarks to the gathering back inside the hall, now cleared of chairs and set up with a dance floor, Milbank noted the traditional Ketubah set a price on the wife to be paid to her father. Calculating that price to be 100 goats, Milbank presented noted pollster Stan Greenberg with four stuffed goats from a basket as a down payment, promising regular deliveries from Amazon 'unless and until he says the debt is paid.'" ***Full pool report*** http://politi.co/2rx5rNc ... ***Pics -- Under the chuppa*** http://bit.ly/2r42KkG ... ***First dance*** http://bit.ly/2rNNslo ... http://bit.ly/2quxgld

SPOTTED: Juleanna Glover and Christopher Reiter, former Sen. Chris Dodd (D-Conn.), Rep. Rosa DeLauro (D-Conn.) and Stan Greenberg, Amy Dacey, Katherine Miller, Terence Samuel, Jodi Enda, Tom Toles, Jonathan Karl, Susan Glasser and Peter Baker, Carol Lee, Anu Rangappa, Paul Kane, Neil King Jr. and Shailagh Murray, Jonathan Weisman, Jennifer Steinhauer, Anne Kornblut and Jon Cohen, JoDee Winterhoff, Juliet Eilperin, Eric Liu, Doug Sosnik.

OBAMA ALUMNI -- KATIE JOHNSON and **NATE RAWLINGS** tied the knot last night in Brookline, Massachusetts. **POOL REPORT** from Ben LaBolt and Kate Bedingfield: It was "a Beantown bash wedding complete with an excursion to a private island in Boston Harbor. Surrounded by friends and family, they married to the sound of bagpipes at All

Saints Parish in Brookline then headed down the street for a rollicking reception at Katie's family home (there remains a debate about the best dance performance to the silent DJ). Katie served as Personal Secretary to President Obama during his first term and as a Counselor in the Office of Management and Budget during the second. Nate, who served as a Captain in the Army in Iraq and Afghanistan, a reporter at Time Magazine and a speechwriter for Vice President Biden [and is also a State alum], is now chief speechwriter at the World Bank. ... Revelers celebrated under a tent in Katie's parents' backyard, dancing to the wee hours of the night a mere 24 hours after a spirited game of capture the flag brought out both the best and worst of everyone in attendance."***Pics*** http://bit.ly/2reLZ6Q ... http://bit.ly/2rf2IqT

SPOTTED: Joel and Lisa Benenson, Meghan Johnson, Meaghan Burdick, Missy Kurek, Kal Penn, Todd and Lindsey Schulte, Mike O'Neil and Stephanie Sutton, Reid Cherlin and Annie Shacker, Thomas Richards, Ben Finkenbinder, Vinay Reddy, Emily Loeb and Sarah Feldman, David Kieve, Nikki Buffa, Jen Psaki and Greg Mecher, Stephanie Psaki and Adam Frankel, Chris Boutlier, Danielle Gray, Alex Mackler, Jenny Cizner and Jeff Amsel, Jacob Leibenluft, Mackey Dykes and Katie Scharf, Ishan Tharoor, Jenny Urizar.

ENGAGED -- Zach Gillan, research director for Congressional Leadership Fund and an alum of the NRSC, got engaged this weekend to **Cherie Paquette,** producer for FOX News' "America's Newsroom" with Bill Hemmer and Martha MacCallum. He proposed at Pippin Hill outside of Charlottesville, and they met in April 2014 at a happy hour for her going away party from the Washington Free Beacon to FOX News. The Daily Beast's Lachlan Markay gets credit as the matchmaker. ***Pics*** http://bit.ly/2sd986Z ... http://bit.ly/2rf31BH

--Jason Rodriguez, a political advocacy specialist at the American Nurses Association, got engaged on Saturday to **Brittany Grimm,** manager of grassroots at the American Bankers Association. They met while they were House Democratic fundraising consultants during the '14 cycle. Rodriguez, former national deputy Latino vote director for the Hillary campaign, proposed after she arrived from a flight home after visiting some friends out west. Their dog, Arrow, and Jason were waiting at home with a room filled with candles. ***Pic*** http://bit.ly/2rO3qMa ... ***The ring*** http://bit.ly/2qykJwe

WELCOME TO THE WORLD -- Lydia Mulvany, reporter covering agriculture and commodities at Bloomberg, and **Riccardo Reatti,** VP of strategic initiatives at Zurich Insurance Company in Chicago, early Sunday morning welcomed Valentina, born at 12:30 a.m. Both mom and baby are healthy and happy. ***Pics*** http://bit.ly/2ra8V52 ... http://bit.ly/2qyCJ9x ... http://bit.ly/2rwIFVx

BIRTHDAYS: Matthew Dowd ... Jill Hazelbaker, V.P. of comms. and policy at Uber, and a Snapchat and McCain alum ... Sandy DeFrees ... Pete Seat, executive director of strategic comms and talent development at the Indiana Republican Party (and frequent World Series attender), is 34 ... D.C. Examiner managing editor Philip Klein ... Rep. Jeb Hensarling (R-Tex.) is 6-0 ... Sen. Jerry Moran (R-Kan.) is 63 ... Kara Genderson (h/t Dan) ... Francesca Chambers, a proud KU alum and White House Correspondent at

The Daily Mail (hubby tip: Michael Moroney) ... LifeZette's Jon Conradi is 28 ... Susan Osnos, the pride of Lakeside, Michigan (h/t son Evan) ... Jacob Kornbluh, Jewish Insider's tireless NYC-based reporter ... Freakonomics' Steven Levitt is 5-0 (h/ts Max Neuberger) ...

... Lee Satterfield, EVP and COO at Meridian International Center ... Todd Flournoy ... Bri Gillis ... Sam Ford ... Dayna Geldwert ... Kimberly Rawson ... Yale Scott ... Dan Froomkin ...Eugene Gelfgat (h/t Hayley Andrews) ... Chris Johnson ... Tom Giusto ... Danny Maiello ... Kathy Lash of Justine's Ice Cream Parlour in St. Michaels and Ocean City, Maryland (h/ts Jon Haber) ... Mary Ryan Douglass ... Danny Crouch ... Dave Yonkman is 31 ... Terence Samuel, deputy managing editor at NPR and a WaPo alum ... Alexander Berger ... former Time Inc. CEO Ann Moore ... Ellen Kurz ... Mary Anne Schmitt (h/ts Teresa Vilmain) ... Brian McClung ... former Century Foundation president Janice Nittoli ... Charlie Gerow ... Aleen Sirgany ... Tulin Daloglu ... former baseball commissioner Fay Vincent, also a Hotchkiss grad, is 78 ... Annette Bening is 59 ... Melissa Etheridge is 56 ... NBA player Carmelo Anthony is 33 (h/ts AP)

****** **A message from Morgan Stanley:** All Aboard Florida wanted to create a faster and easier way to move around Florida. Morgan Stanley helped them raise capital to begin development of the country's first express, intercity railway to do just that. Not only are the new Brightline trains expected to reduce travel time across Southern Florida by approximately an hour[1], but they're also projected to take up to 3 million vehicles off the road each year, helping to reduce congestion and harmful emissions[1]. Read more about Morgan Stanley's work at morganstanley.com/brightline. Capital creates change.

Disclaimer:
[1] Based on data provided by All Aboard Florida. For more information visit:
http://allaboardflorida.com/projectdetails/aaf-fact-sheet
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From: Morning Energy
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Subject: POLITICO's Morning Energy: Four energy nominees get committee votes today — Chinese diplomat resigns over Paris pullout — Pruitt feared Paris might force domestic climate rules

By Anthony Adragna | 06/06/2017 10:00 AM EDT

With help from Esther Whieldon and Darius Dixon

NEW JOLT OF ENERGY (NOMINEES)! The Energy and Natural Resources Committee is set to advance four crucial energy nominees to the full Senate by midday today as Republican votes alone are sufficient to move them forward. Arguably the greatest fight may be over President Donald Trump's pick for the No. 2 slot at Interior, David Bernhardt. Expect Democrats to raise concerns about Bernhardt's industry ties, ethics waivers and his assertion at his confirmation hearing that the Interior will take its cues on climate change from Trump, who has called it a hoax perpetrated by the Chinese. A coalition of environmental groups sent a letter to committee leaders on Monday citing what they said were "serious legal and ethical questions" about his actions in 2008 with California water districts while serving as Interior's Solicitor and calling for an investigation before his confirmation (The League of Conservation Voters sent its own letter opposing Bernhardt's nomination).

Don't expect any Republicans to break from their party's support for Neil Chatterjee or Rob Powelson, Trump's picks for FERC commissioners, or Deputy Energy Secretary nominee Dan Brouillette. Sen. Ron Wyden has already announced his opposition to Chatterjee and Powelson, but they're likely to get at least some Democratic votes. Keep in mind however that anti-pipeline protesters showed up at their nomination hearing - when the nominees' families were present - so there's no reason to think there won't be a bit of a ruckus today. The panel's top Democrat, Sen. Maria Cantwell, wouldn't tip her hand when ME caught up with her Monday night, but did say she had unspecified "concerns" with some of the nominees.

If you go: The business meeting kicks off at 9:30 a.m. in Dirksen 366.

U.S. DIPLOMAT QUITS OVER PARIS: David Rank, the Beijing embassy's chargé d'affaires, resigned Monday in a move driven by Trump's call last week to withdraw from the Paris climate agreement, POLITICO's Nahal Toosi reports . Rank, who spent 27 years at the State Department, made the unusual move to inform colleagues of his decision in a public town hall. "Such a move shows the level of utter disdain for Trump and his policies by senior American diplomats," Brett Bruen, a retired State Department veteran who served as Director of Global Engagement in the Obama White House, told POLITICO. "They face the brunt of the blowback from our allies and have to contend with the advantages it offers our adversaries."

Another Cabinet member weighs in: Energy Secretary Rick Perry, speaking in Japan, said those seeking out Trump's view on climate change are "chasing a rabbit down a hole," but he vowed the U.S. would remain involved in international discussions, according to multiple reports. "Is the climate changing? Yes," Perry said. "Is man having an impact? Yes. How are we going to address it going forward? And the answer is, that's not going to change. The United

States is still going to be very engaged in that."

Meanwhile, new polling out Monday finds 59 percent of Americans oppose Trump's move to pull out of the landmark climate pact while just 28 percent back it, POLITICO's Madeline Conway reports. A majority, 55 percent, said they believe the decision hurts U.S. leadership in the world, while just 18 percent said it would help American leadership's standing.

WELCOME TO TUESDAY! I'm your host Anthony Adragna, and LCV's Tiernan Sittenfeld was first to identify Indiana as the state with hyper-restrictive Sunday laws on beer, wine and liquor. For today: There are three states that are entirely dry by default. (Counties must specifically authorize the sale of alcohol.) Which states are they? Send your tips, energy gossip and comments to aadragna@politico.com, or follow us on Twitter @AnthonyAdragna, @Morning_Energy, and @POLITICOPro.

PRUITT WORRIED PARIS MIGHT COMPEL DOMESTIC REGULATIONS: EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt took to Breitbart Radio Monday to reiterate a key reason he pushed for Trump to withdraw from the Paris Agreement was fear that staying might trigger litigation seeking to compel new regulations under Section 115 of the Clean Air Act. "[Paris] could trigger lawsuits by environmental groups here, the environmental left suing the EPA and the United States government and saying, 'Hey, we agreed to 26 percent and 28 percent targets in this international agreement. Why aren't you taking steps to meet those targets?' and then to compel action," he said. A group of environmental attorneys outlined ways EPA could pursue such regulations in a January 2016 report.

Bashes health concerns: Pruitt criticized comments from many that withdrawing from the Paris accord would have disastrous health consequences, arguing there's a key difference between carbon dioxide and other criteria pollutants. He said it was time for a new discussion about the health impacts of carbon dioxide. "What the American people deserve is a true, legitimate, peer-reviewed, objective, transparent discussion about CO2," Pruitt said. "The American people need to have that type of honest, open discussion, and it's something that we hope to help provide as part of our leadership."

Returning to the Hill: For the first time since his confirmation, Pruitt returns to the Hill June 15 to testify about the Trump administration's proposed 31 percent cuts to EPA, Pro's Alex Guillén reports. The hearing before the House Appropriations Interior-EPA subcommittee will take place at 1 p.m. ME expects House Democrats to aggressively question Pruitt on a host of actions to unwind the Obama administration's rules.

CALIFORNIA BACKS CLIMATE COOPERATION WITH CHINA: Led by Gov. Jerry Brown, the government of California agreed today to work with China's Ministry of Science and Technology on deploying clean energy technologies and collaborating on emissions trading, Reuters reports. That comes after Brown signed an agreement with Jiangsu Province expanding their cooperation on climate change and another with Sichuan Province enhancing their work on clean energy efforts.

EPA TOUTS PROGRESS ON CHEMICALS BACKLOG: Citing effective prioritization and

process efficiencies, EPA now says it will eliminate a backlog of new chemicals awaiting review under the Toxic Substances Control Act by the end of July. "Reviewing new chemicals quickly will enable those deemed safe to enter the marketplace to support jobs and our economy," Pruitt said in a statement. The agency says it plans to provide weekly progress updates. Back in April, Pruitt said the backlog stood at about 1,000 chemicals when he took office but he pledged to hit regulatory deadlines outlined in the revamped TSCA law this year.

WHAT'S AFTER STUCK IN THE MUD? The White House is making a push this week toward privatizing air traffic control and promoting Trump's $1 trillion infrastructure plan, but tossing infrastructure onto the existing heap of huge legislative lifts runs the risk of stalling the president's entire agenda, POLITICO's Andrew Restuccia and Lauren Gardner report. "I believe a new president has about a year to get three to four big things done," said former Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood, a Republican who served under President Barack Obama. "And if they don't do it in that year, it's probably pretty much a lost opportunity."

SCHUMER BLAMES TRUMP FOR FEDERAL VACANCIES: Trump has slammed Democrats for "taking forever" to confirm his nominees to a litany of vacant federal positions, but Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer correctly noted that he hasn't nominated anyone to fill many of them. "President Trump ought to roll up his sleeves and get to work rather than pointing false fingers of blame," Schumer said in a statement. The White House has not formally nominated people to fill 441 of 559 key positions requiring Senate confirmation, according to the Partnership for Public Service.

NEVADA PASS BILL TO HIKE RENEWABLES: In its last day in session, the Nevada legislature on Monday sent Gov. Brian Sandoval a bill, A.B. 206, that would raise the state renewable portfolio standard to 40 percent by 2030 instead of 25 percent by 2025. The bill also eliminates the requirements setting out how much must come from solar projects and includes language allowing utilities to provide direct sales contracts to customers from renewable power projects.

MILITARY LEADERS SOUND ALARM ON ENERGY DISRUPTION: Successfully transitioning to an advanced energy economy will be decisive for U.S. competitiveness, diplomacy and national security for years to come, according to a report out this morning from the highest-ranking retired group of U.S. military officers. The CNA Military Advisory Board advises that a wide portfolio of advanced energy technologies will enhance geopolitical security and failure to lead in this space will compromise U.S. global influence and national security. The group will provide a closed-door briefing to administration defense and security officials on the report this week.

MORE NOMINEES WITH ENERGY TIES: Trump announced two picks for roles in the Overseas Private Investment Corporation, a foreign development fund, and both have significant energy ties. Ray Washburne, nominated to be president of the entity, was on the Trump's short list for energy secretary during the transition. David Bohigian, up to be executive vice president of OPIC, founded E2 Capital Partners, which pushed new financing models for energy efficiency projects, and championed international clean energy deployment efforts while serving as an assistant secretary of Commerce during the George W. Bush administration.

FOR PLANNING PURPOSES: Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke is scheduled to give a luncheon address today to a meeting of the Recreation Vehicle Industry Association in Washington.

STORAGE SECTOR CONTINUES UTILITY-SCALE BOOM: The U.S. added 234 megawatt-hours of energy storage in the first quarter of this year, the industry's biggest quarter yet, GTM Research and the Energy Storage Association said in a report out this morning. Most of that growth was boosted by a few large utility-scale projects in Arizona, Hawaii and California, including one to offset power supplies lost during the Aliso Canyon natural gas leak.

REPORT: EMPLOYEE SENT HARASSING MESSAGES: A Bureau of Indian Affairs employee sent inappropriate - and frequently sexual - text and Facebook messages to Colorado River Indian Tribes employees and tribal members, an Interior inspector general report found. The employee admitted sending the messages and that his conduct was "unprofessional and inappropriate," but the report doesn't say whether he faced additional disciplinary action.

MOVERS, SHAKERS: Ryan Serote has joined Salt River Project as senior manager of federal affairs in the utility's Washington office; he comes from the lobbying shop of National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

Judith Browne Dianis, executive director of Advancement Project, a multi-racial civil rights organization, has joined the board of directors of Friends of the Earth. "The organization's staunch advocacy to protect our planet is vital in this moment when policymakers want to scrap environmental protections," she said in a statement.

John Deutch will join the Energy Policy Institute at the University of Chicago as a distinguished fellow for the fall quarter; previous jobs include a professorship with MIT and several positions at DOE, including undersecretary, during Jimmy Carter's presidency.

Pat Hart has joined the Edison Electric Institute as director of preparedness and outreach with its security and business continuity group; he was most recently senior adviser to DOE Deputy Secretary Liz Sherwood-Randall.

Tristan Daedalus (who has what had to be one of the most distinctive names of any congressional staffer) has joined the American Forest Foundation as director of policy. He was previously communications director for Rep. Matt Salmon (R-Ariz.) (h/t POLITICO Influence).

QUICK HITS

- In This Texas Coal Town, Worry About Climate, But Not The Paris Accord. KUT.

- EPA: Pruitt meant 'mining' jobs, not 'coal' jobs up 50,000 under Trump. SNL.

- Review of Auto Standards Raises Concerns From Former EPA Officials. Morning Consult.

- Qatar's dispute with Arab states puts LNG market on edge. Reuters.

- Hispanic Group With Ties To Soros' Open Society Targets Western Senators. Western Wire.

- The U.S. is relocating an entire town because of climate change. And this is just the beginning. Quartz.

THAT'S ALL FOR ME!

To view online:
http://www.politico.com/tipsheets/morning-energy/2017/06/06/four-energy-nominees-get-committee-votes-today-220682

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Sent: Thur 6/8/2017 6:19:06 PM
Subject: BREAKING NEWS: Trump's lawyer attacks Comey for disclosing content of memos

President Donald Trump's outside counsel on Thursday attacked former FBI Director James Comey for disclosing the content of memos he kept of his conversations with Trump, and said the White House will let the authorities determine whether to investigate the ousted FBI chief.

Marc Kasowitz said in a statement following Comey's testimony before the Senate Intelligence Committee earlier Thursday that he "admitted" to sharing the contents of the memos to a personal friend, who then leaked it to the press. It is not clear if such a disclosure would be a violation.

"Today, Mr. Comey admitted that he unilaterally and surreptitiously made unauthorized disclosures to the press of privileged communications with the President," Kasowitz said. "We will leave it [to] the appropriate authorities to determine whether this (sic) leaks should be investigated along with all those others being investigated."

Read more: http://www.politico.com/story/2017/06/08/trumps-lawyer-attacks-comey-for-disclosing-content-of-memos-239305

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Sent: Tue 6/6/2017 2:01:43 PM
Subject: Senate panel advances Interior nominee

By Esther Whieldon

06/06/2017 09:57 AM EDT

The Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee voted 14-9 to approve David Bernhardt as Interior deputy secretary today.

Democratic Sen. Joe Manchin (W.Va.) and Independent Angus King (Maine) joined Republicans in supporting Bernhardt's nomination for the number two spot at the agency.

Bernhardt worked at the Interior during the George W. Bush administration in such high-ranking positions as solicitor and chief of staff. Most recently the Colorado native was a lobbyist for Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck where he represented a number of oil and mining companies and several major players in California's water wars.

Before the vote, committee ranking Democrat Sen. Maria Cantwell of Washington said she remains concerned about Bernhardt's industry ties and his refusal to recuse himself for the duration of his term from certain issues. Bernhardt "would bring a great deal of unwelcome baggage to the department," she said.

WHAT'S NEXT: Bernhardt's nomination now heads to a full chamber vote, which has yet to be scheduled.

To view online:
https://www.politicopro.com/energy/whiteboard/2017/06/senate-panel-advances-interior-nominee-088625

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Subject: Latest News from InsideEPA/climate

June 8, 2017

Sessions' Ban On Third-Party Monetary Deals Could 'Cripple' SEPs, EIP Says

Attorney General Jeff Sessions' new policy barring monetary payments to third parties as part of civil settlements could "cripple" supplemental environmental projects (SEPs) that have been part of such deals for 40 years, including pacts similar to the recent Volkswagen settlement that promotes zero-emission vehicles (ZEV), environmentalists say.

The latest update from *InsideEPA/climate* – from the editors of InsideEPA.com, delivering daily news, analysis and perspective on the renewed debate over climate change policies.

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To: Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
From: Bloomberg BNA
Sent: Mon 6/26/2017 7:43:52 PM
Subject: June 26 -- Energy and Climate Report - Afternoon Briefing

Energy and Climate Report

Afternoon Briefing - Your Preview of Today's News

The following news provides a snapshot of what Bloomberg BNA is working on today. Read the full version of all the stories in the final issue, published each night.

Cheniere's LNG Market Share Expands as Korea Contract Starts

Posted June 26, 2017, 02:23 P.M. ET

By Ryan Collins and Naureen S. Malik

Add South Korea to the growing list of regulars buying America's shale gas.

Cheniere Energy Inc., the sole exporter of liquefied natural gas from U.S. shale basins, commenced a 20-year supply agreement with Korea Gas Corp. at a ceremony in Louisiana on June 25. Under the deal originally signed in 2012, Cheniere will make available for delivery about 3.5 million tons of the supercooled fuel annually to South Korea, the world's second-biggest buyer last year, representing at least $548 million of revenue per year.

Just last year, the first cargo of LNG from the lower 48 states sailed from Cheniere's Sabine Pass terminal in Louisiana. Now, buyers including South Korea, Mexico, Chile and Japan have set the U.S. on a path to becoming a net gas exporter for the first time in decades. As the surge in production from America's shale reservoirs transforms the nation into a global gas powerhouse, the U.S. may surpass Australia and Qatar to becoming the world's largest LNG supplier by 2035.

LNG may play an even bigger role in meeting South Korea's energy demand after the election of Moon Jae-in as president in May. Moon has promised to transition away from coal and nuclear power, favoring natural gas and renewables. With the Korea Gas supply agreement in place, Cheniere is in a position to capitalize on the policy shift.

"This guy is not into coal, and he's also said no new coal-fired generation. And on the nuclear front, he shut down Korea's oldest reactor," Madeline Jowdy, senior director of global gas and LNG at Pira Energy Group in New York, said in a phone interview June 23, referring to Moon. "What that means is that it's directionally good for the U.S" for LNG exports.

South Korea has already received eight cargoes loaded with Sabine Pass gas as of June 21, according to data compiled by Bloomberg. But the vessel that will arrive early next month will be the first to be received under the long-term supply deal.

The SM Eagle departed Cheniere's Sabine Pass June 3 and is headed for South Korea, according to vessel tracking data compiled by Bloomberg.

"The two countries are undergoing occasional disputes on issues of unbalanced trade and I'm personally so glad to see the bright future on this matter since today's event can be the beginning of a significant rise in the Korean imports from the United States," Lee Seung-Hoon, chief executive officer of Korea Gas, said at the event June 25.

South Korea bought 34.19 million tons of LNG last year, according to the International Group of Liquefied Natural Gas importers, the second most after Japan.

Cheniere is already the biggest U.S. buyer of physical natural gas. And once all seven trains the company's building at Sabine Pass and a Corpus Christi, Texas, terminal are online, it expects to be two to three times bigger than the second-largest consumer.

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House Panel to Mark Up Yucca Mountain Nuclear Waste Bill

Posted June 26, 2017, 10:45 A.M. ET

By Ari Natter

The House Energy and Commerce Committee will mark up legislation this week that would restart efforts to make Yucca Mountain the U.S. permanent repository for nuclear waste, committee spokesman Dan Schneider said in an email.

The draft bill, known as Nuclear Waste Policy Act Amendments of 2017, would advance licensing efforts that the Obama administration put on hold. The bill would also authorize the Energy Department to enter into contracts with private interim storage facilities before a permanent repository is developed.

Energy and Commerce's Energy and Environment Subcommittee approved a draft Yucca bill on June 15. Among the three Democratic amendments that were all introduced and eventually withdrawn was one from Rep. Scott Peters (D-Calif.). It proposed removing language linking Energy Department agreement on interim storage with the final decision on Yucca Mountain. He wanted the interim storage to be able to move forward without Yucca authorization.

Yucca Mountain, located 90 miles northwest of Las Vegas, is opposed by Nevada Gov. Brian Sandoval (R) and most of the state's congressional delegation.

China Says Qinghai Province Beats Portugal's Clean-Power Record

Posted June 26, 2017, 9:34 A.M. ET

By Bloomberg News

The Chinese province of Qinghai in the nation's northwest set a record by using clean energy for seven continuous days, surpassing the previous title-holder Portugal.

Electricity consumption in the province reached 1.18 billion kilowatt-hours for the week ending June 23, with 72 percent of the power from hydro plants and the rest from solar and wind, State Grid Corp. of China, the nation's biggest power distributor, said in an emailed statement June 24.

The move set a record for clean energy delivery by duration. Portugal, where maximum power load is relatively equivalent to Qinghai, set the previous record last year when it got all its electricity from renewable energy for 107 hours, or less than five days, according to State Grid.

As of the end of May, renewable energy accounted for almost 83 percent of all the installed capacity in Qinghai, State Grid said. In the record-breaking week, the company used 67 million kilowatt-hours of electricity from new energy sources from other northwestern regions.

State Grid said it used systems that provide ultra-short forecasts for renewable energy output, analyze available sources and send alerts when clean power is available for purchase.

"Qinghai has good conditions to become a national integrated power base for renewable energy," Xu Honghua, vice chairman of China Renewable Energy Society, said in the statement. The province could be a pioneer in deriving all power and heating from local renewable energy, he said.

Qinghai had 6.9 gigawatts of total solar capacity at the end of the first quarter, the third-most in the nation, according to National Energy Administration. This is roughly equal to the entire solar market in France at the end of 2016.

The province is also seeking integrated uses of clean energy and plans 3,300 megawatts of wind power for 2017, requiring an additional 330 megawatts of storage, according to the Chinese Wind Energy Association.

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Tariffs on Solar Panels Seen Slowing Industry Growth by 66%

Posted June 26, 2017, 8:37 A.M. ET

By Joe Ryan

A trade complaint asking the Trump administration to impose tariffs on solar panels could devastate the U.S. industry, wiping out two-thirds of solar systems forecast to be installed over the next five years, according to a Jund 26 report by GTM Research.

The case, filed by bankrupt panel manufacturer Suniva Inc., would cause equipment prices to spike in the U.S. and prompt installations to fall to as low as 25 gigawatts from 2018 to 2022, down from GTM's current forecast of 72.5 gigawatts, GTM said. The report is the first on how tariffs may affect the industry.

Suniva, based in Georgia, brought the case to the U.S. International Trade Commission in April after filing for Chapter 11, saying tariffs are necessary for domestic manufacturers to compete with a surge of cheap panels from Southeast Asia. It's asking for duties of 40 cents a watt for solar cells, which now sell for 25 cents to 33 cents a watt. Much of the solar industry has objected, saying cheap panels have been the key to growth in the U.S.

"Suniva's new trade dispute would strike a devastating blow to the U.S. solar market," Cory Honeyman, GTM's associate director of U.S. solar, said in an email. "Shock waves will be felt across all segments."

Utility Scale

Suniva is "heartened" that the GTM report acknowledges the damage to the U.S. solar manufacturing industry and disappointed that it fails to quantify the risks in connection with the petition's proposed remedy, Christian Hudson, an attorney for Suniva, said in a statement. A second company, SolarWorld AG's U.S. unit, joined the case in May.

GTM found the biggest impact of tariffs would likely be on large-scale unity solar farms, which compete as an alternative to natural gas. Residential rooftop installations are less apt to take a hit.

Solar installations in the U.S. have soared in recent years, largely because of low-cost panels imported from Asia. The price of photovoltaic cells within these panels has declined nearly 50 percent since 2012, according to Bloomberg New Energy Finance.

The ITC will conclude its investigation by Sept. 22, and send its recommendations to President Donald Trump for a decision later this year.

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China 'Future Proofing' for Climate Change, Researcher Says

Posted June 26, 2017, 5:01 A.M. ET

By Michael Standaert

China is among the few countries preparing for a day when some coastal populations may need to move inland due to rising sea levels, according to a Cornell University study.

Most governments with long coastal areas have yet to adequately plan for resettling populations due to climate change, the study said.

But China, which is among the top five countries with the most people living in low-elevation coastal zones, is "future proofing" through some of its policies, study author Charles Geisler told Bloomberg BNA June 23.

The study applauded some of China's infrastructure developments. And it noted that China has built excess inland housing in areas that don't yet have the population to fill all residential units.

It also cited China's efforts to halt desertification in northern and western areas of the country, an attempt to increase the amount of arable land, as a positive strategy.

The study claimed that by 2100 as many as 2 billion people—out of an estimated global population of 11 billion—will have been forced to move because of climate-related rises in sea levels.

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Energy and Climate Report

To: Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
From: Anna Palmer Jake Sherman Daniel Lippman
Sent: Sat 7/1/2017 2:44:33 PM
Subject: POLITICO Playbook, presented by the Coalition for Affordable Prescription Drugs (CAPD): Instead of pushing his agenda, TRUMP launches into TWEETSTORM about the media -- MORE TILLERSON fireworks -- INSIDE VIEW of the Russia probe -- DANA KLINGHOFFER to NBC

View online version | Add politicoplaybook@politico.com to your address book.

Today's POLITICO Playbook presented by the Coalition for Affordable Prescription Drugs (CAPD)
07/01/2017 10:37 AM EDT

By JAKE SHERMAN (sherman@politico.com; @JakeSherman), ANNA PALMER (anna@politico.com; @apalmerdc) and DANIEL LIPPMAN (daniel@politico.com; @dlippman)

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Driving the Day

Good Saturday morning and welcome to July. THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES is on a tweetstorm from his summer home in Bedminster, New Jersey. It started out nice, and calm -- the president wished Canada a happy 150th anniversary. But the tweets turned sharp -- quickly, veering into a stream of tweets analyzing the media landscape. It's a fascinating view into what seems to be occupying the mind of the president of the United States: cable news.

PALS -- @realDonaldTrump at 8:44 a.m.: "Happy Canada Day to all of the great people of Canada and to your Prime Minister and my new found friend @JustinTrudeau. #Canada150" **...**

-- @realDonaldTrump at 8:59 a.m.: "Word is that @Greta Van Susteren was let go by her out of control bosses at @NBC & @Comcast because she refused to go along w/ 'Trump hate!'"

-- TAKE A STEP BACK and recognize that the president of the United States is weighing in on the dismissal of the host of the 6 p.m. hour on MSNBC. For the record, MSNBC insiders say the show didn't catch on.

THE PRESIDENT at 9:07 a.m.: "Numerous states are refusing to give information to the very distinguished VOTER FRAUD PANEL. What are they trying to hide?"

-- ACTUALLY, many of the states that have refused say it is against their state laws to turn over personal information. (***Read the WaPo story*** http://wapo.st/2uvgvb2 ***and the NYT story*** http://nyti.ms/2uuM5Ww. ***More than two dozen states are resisting the***

president's request)

MORE MEDIA CRITICISM at 9:12 a.m.: "I am extremely pleased to see that @CNN has finally been exposed as #FakeNews and garbage journalism. It's about time!"

-- CNN is not fake news.

THE PRESIDENT at 9:20 a.m.: "Crazy Joe Scarborough and dumb as a rock Mika are not bad people, but their low rated show is dominated by their NBC bosses. Too bad!"

-- JOE isn't crazy, Mika isn't dumb and their show isn't "dominated by their NBC bosses." ... **JESSE RODRIGUEZ,** the senior producer of "Morning Joe," **(@JesseRodriguez):** "Just a reminder about the @Morning_Joe ratings" ***Link to press release saying MJ had its "highest rating ever in the time period in the key demographic last quarter"*** http://bit.ly/2t2FYuA

TRUMP'S TWITTER ACCOUNT reaches 33 million users. The media covers his every utterance. **WHAT THE PRESIDENT COULD BE DOING**: Using the platform to push for Congress to repeal and replace Obamacare, overhaul the tax code or invest in infrastructure. He could be amplifying the party's message. Instead, he's musing about MSNBC and CNN.

INSIDE D.C. STORY OF THE DAY -- AUSTIN WRIGHT and**MARTIN MATISHAK: "An inside view of the House Russia probe."** http://politi.co/2t2exRp

MORE TILLERSON FIREWORKS -- "Tillerson argued with a second White House aide," by Josh Dawsey and Eliana Johnson: "Secretary of State Rex Tillerson argued with senior White House aide Stephen Miller over immigration issues last week in a second recent clash with the White House. Miller pushed Tillerson and the State Department to be tougher on immigration and make changes to the programs they control, according to four people familiar with the conversation in the West Wing. John Kelly, the head of the Department of Homeland Security, was also present.

"Two of these people described the conversation as tense, though there wasn't the 'yelling' that Tillerson reserved for Johnny DeStefano, the head of presidential personnel, in a different argument at the White House the same day, according to one of these people. Tillerson made it 'quite clear' to Miller that he wanted autonomy over his department, one of these people said. A White House spokesman declined to comment on the record. A State Department spokesman declined to comment. Miller didn't return repeated requests for comment." http://politi.co/2srayiJ

****** **A message from the Coalition for Affordable Prescription Drugs (CAPD):** A new study found that pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs) reduced spending in Medicare Part D by 58 percent in 2014, driving down costs for the government, taxpayers, and beneficiaries. The study forecasts that PBMs will save $1,800 per Medicare beneficiary, per year over the next ten years. Learn more at

affordableprescriptiondrugs.org ******

TRUMP V. MIKA, DAY III -- NEW JUICY DETAILS from **NYT'S JIM RUTENBERG: "'Morning Joe' Row Is Fresh Sign of TV's Iron Grip on Trump":** "Ms. Brzezinski ... also said she helped Mr. Trump find a key staff member, his foreign policy adviser, Dina Powell. Ms. Powell, a former Bush administration official, has emerged as a power inside the administration, reassuring worried outsiders. 'Dina Powell was in there because I brought her to Trump Tower and introduced her to Ivanka and Donald,' Ms. Brzezinski said. 'I will just say that, on camera and off, we hoped for the best.' ...

"Then came what he described as a screaming match over the phone a couple of weeks later, after Ms. Brzezinski and Mr. Scarborough mercilessly mocked Mr. Trump's aide Stephen Miller for his overheated proclamation that the president's power to impose the travel ban should 'not be questioned' by the courts. 'It went back and forth for 20 or 30 minutes and it was a very ugly call,' Mr. Scarborough said. 'He was screaming at me saying, 'Why are you being so tough on this kid -- I invited you to lunch at the White House, and you know I could have invited Sean Hannity,' and I said, 'Well, invite Sean Hannity -- we're not going to be schmoozed because you gave us some fish.'" http://nyti.ms/2sxJny3

-- "Mika Speaks! A Day After Trump's Horrific Tweet, Brzezinski Reveals How It All Went Down," by Vanity Fair's Emily Jane Fox: "She said that she had told Melania Trump about the procedure when the couple stopped by Mar-a-Lago on New Year's Eve. 'The irony of it all is that Donald kept saying, 'That's incredible. You can't even tell. Who did it? Who did it?' He kept asking for the name of the doctor. He literally asked 10 times. 'Is he down here? Who is he?' Scarborough recalled. (A spokesman from the White House declined to comment.)" http://bit.ly/2scrJjM

-- THE STRATEGY: "Why some inside the White House see Trump's media feud as 'winning'," by WaPo's Phil Rucker and Ashley Parker: "To President Trump, no place is more comfortable than the middle of a fight. This week had it all: Vicious tweets, nasty nicknames, an entrenched foe in the mainstream media and the reprisal by Trump of one of his favorite roles -- the victim. Sure, Trump's health-care push stalled on Capitol Hill, his 'energy week' went largely unnoticed and the president faced almost universal condemnation for an unpresidential attack on MSNBC anchor Mika Brzezinski. But to many inside the White House, as well as outside allies, what looked like a public relations debacle amounted to an abundance of 'winning' -- a Trumpian catchphrase playfully repeated Friday by some West Wing officials, even as they were discomfited by the Brzezinski broadside." http://wapo.st/2sxFTeJ

IT'S A SMALL NEW YORK WORLD -- "Jared Kushner Almost Bought the National Enquirer Three Years Ago," by Bloomberg's Alex Sherman and Anousha Sakoui: "Three years ago, Kushner and his brother-in-law, Joe Meyer, tried with Enquirer publisher David Pecker to buy the tabloid's owner, American Media Inc., people familiar with that bid said. The deal ultimately fell through because of weak advertising revenue at the time, said the people, who asked not to be identified because the matter was

private." https://bloom.bg/2sbYH3T

WELCOME TO THE GAME -- "Cruz and Lee play inside game in health fight," by Burgess Everett: "Four years ago, Mike Lee and Ted Cruz launched an all-out media blitz to stop Obamacare implementation that culminated in a 16-day government shutdown. Now the conservative senators are still pressuring GOP leaders to go further than their colleagues in gutting the law, but they're making their push through quiet backroom conversations instead. It's a shift for the Senate GOP's two leading agitators, who are trying to build consensus in their own unique, hard-line way. And where they end up will ultimately determine whether Republicans are able to pass a bill.

"If Lee and Cruz are able to help craft a compromise that can win 50 Republican votes, their support will go far in easing concerns from other conservatives who still deride the bill as Obamacare-lite. Yet the firm positions of Cruz (R-Texas) and Lee (R-Utah) are still imperiling the Senate Republicans' repeal effort by pushing the party more to the right than many more centrist lawmakers would like to go." http://politi.co/2twEppc

-- "Trump Backers 'Furious' That Senator Stood Against Health Care Bill," by NYT's Jonathan Martin and Ken Vogel (in his NYT debut): "The political fallout from [Dean] Heller's high-profile news conference a week ago offers a vivid illustration of the new fault lines on the right in the Trump era. After years of fierce clashing between Republican hard-liners and mainstream conservatives, the purity-versus-pragmatist wars have given way to a new, Trump-centered debate that highlights how fully the president has taken over the party." http://nyti.ms/2uuXAgD

THE LATEST HEALTH CARE HURDLE -- "Conservative groups unleash on Senate Republicans over repeal bill," by Adam Cancryn: "Frustrated conservative groups are escalating attacks on Senate Republicans over the stalled health care bill, targeting individual senators and threatening political consequences if the GOP falls short of fully repealing Obamacare. The sharp opposition comes after Republican leaders signaled they may try to make health insurance subsidies more generous in hopes of appeasing the moderate wing. That could further endanger Majority Leader Mitch McConnell's fragile bid to strike a compromise that will get him the elusive 50 votes he needs to pass a bill after the July Fourth break." http://politi.co/2ssbHq8

FRIDAY NEWS DUMP -- "White House releases salary info for Trump's aides," by Nolan McCaskill: "Donald Trump's White House is stocked with 25 staffers who hold the title of 'special assistant to the president,' according to a disclosure released Friday, which also revealed that nearly two dozen aides all earn an annual salary of roughly $180,000. The White House posted the salaries of its executive office staff in a 16-page document detailing the earnings of nearly 400 individuals ... The president's core West Wing staff dominate the top tier of earners, with chief of staff Reince Priebus, chief strategist and senior counselor Steve Bannon, press secretary Sean Spicer, counselor Kellyanne Conway, spokeswoman Hope Hicks and social media director Dan Scavino all earning $179,700. ...

"The Trump White House's inaugural salary disclosures also show that it has nearly 100 fewer staffers than President Barack Obama had in 2016. Obama's White House had 473 aides, with 19 assistants to the president. Nine Obama aides earned top salaries of $176,461, and only one staffer, consultant Susan Davies, went unpaid. And Obama's body man, Brian Mosteller, took home $60,000 less than Trump's long-serving body guard, Keith Schiller." http://politi.co/2sxKZI5 ... ***See all the salaries*** http://bit.ly/2scdfAz

-- "Pentagon delays lifting of transgender troop ban," by Jacqueline Klimas: "The Pentagon announced Friday night that it will delay allowing openly transgender troops to join the military until Jan. 1, 2018. Defense Secretary Jim Mattis approved the recommendation from the services that lifting the ban be delayed to allow them time to review the impact on 'the readiness and lethality of our forces,' Pentagon spokeswoman Dana White said in a statement. The six-month delay will only impact new transgender recruits, not the estimated 15,500 already serving. It follows reports last week that the service leaders requested the delay." http://politi.co/2tAattg

THE JUICE ...

FIRST IN PLAYBOOK - The Chinese Embassy in Washington has signed the global strategic consulting firm BLJ Worldwide to do PR for them. It is not clear if Qorvis, the embassy's longtime PR firm, will continue to work with the Chinese. Qorvis has represented the Chinese embassy since 2014 for $25,200 a month. BLJ will get $24,000 a month from the embassy and provide "media monitoring, social media support, drafting and editing of statements and communications, media relations, media training, crisis management, and event support," according to a FARA that was just filed.

A source close to Qorvis said that their formal contract ended "some time ago" but the embassy has recently been paying the firm on a month-to-month basis. The firm declined to comment on if they expect to continue working for the embassy. BLJ, which represents and advises foreign governments, earlier did some work for Syrian first lady Asma Al-Assad, the Qaddafi government and the Ecuador embassy. The Chinese embassy did not reply to a request for comment.

Playbook Reads

PHOTO DU JOUR: Marine One takes off from the South Lawn of the White House with President Donald Trump, first lady Melania Trump and their child Barron Trump on June 30. | Brendan Smialowski/AFP/Getty

SWITCHEROO -- "Trump drops plans for order tightening food aid shipping rules - sources," by Reuters' Patricia Zengerle: "President Donald Trump's administration has dropped plans for an executive order that will require all U.S. food aid to be transported

on American ships after members of Congress protested, congressional and aid sources said on Friday. Reuters reported on Thursday that Trump was considering issuing an order that would have increased to 100 percent the current requirement that 50 percent of such aid be transported on U.S.-flagged vessels. Sen. Bob Corker ... said he had discussed the issue with Trump and that he understands that the shift would have increased the cost of food aid and caused more people to starve." http://reut.rs/2twU6Nf

-- "Science division of White House office left empty as last staffers depart," by CBS News' Jacqueline Alemany: "The science division of the White House's Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) was unstaffed as of Friday as the three remaining employees departed this week, sources tell CBS News. All three employees were holdovers from the Obama administration. ... Under Mr. Obama, the science division was staffed with nine employees who led the charge on policy issues such as STEM education, biotechnology and crisis response." http://cbsn.ws/2twXY0F

SNEAK PEEK -- DAVID REMNICK in next week's New Yorker, "American Dignity on the Fourth of July": "Frederick Douglass ended his Independence Day jeremiad in Rochester with steadfast optimism ('I do not despair of this country'). Read his closing lines, and what despair you might feel when listening to a President who abets ignorance, isolation, and cynicism is eased, at least somewhat. The 'mental darkness' of earlier times is done, Douglass reminded his audience. 'Intelligence is penetrating the darkest corners of the globe.' There is yet hope for the 'great principles' of the Declaration of Independence and 'the genius of American Institutions.' There was reason for optimism then, as there is now. Donald Trump is not forever. Sometimes it just seems that way." http://bit.ly/2sbZ2nb

MEDIAWATCH -- "Former Fox Newser Joins NBC to Head Up Megyn Kelly PR," by TV Newser's Chris Ariens: "Dana Klinghoffer, who spent her entire professional career in the Fox News PR shop, is joining NBC News, TVNewser has learned. Klinghoffer will oversee public relations for Megyn Kelly's new 9 a.m. hour of the Today show, as well as other PR duties. Klinghoffer left Fox News several months ago and has since married and was taking some time off before jumping back into the TV news game." http://bit.ly/2t2ehCb

****** **A message from the Coalition for Affordable Prescription Drugs (CAPD)**: A new study projects pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs) will save Medicare Part D $896 billion over ten years. PBMs drive savings for taxpayers and seniors by negotiating discounts from drug manufacturers; by encouraging the use of lower cost, clinically equivalent drugs; and by providing clinical programs that improve health outcomes. Learn more at affordableprescriptiondrugs.org ******

CLICKER - **"The nation's cartoonists on the week in politics,"** edited by Matt Wuerker -- ***14 keepers*** http://politi.co/2urmnC7

-- **WORTH THE WATCH -- NYT:** "What Happens Just Before Show Time at the Met

Opera" http://nyti.ms/2ssvk1C

GREAT HOLIDAY WEEKEND READS, curated by Daniel Lippman, filing from Aspen:

-- "Nowhere Mag: Can Monocle's globalist chic survive in an age of populism?" by Kyle Chayka in the New Republic - per Longreads.com's description: "For ten years, Monocle has successfully catered to the world's status-conscious, globe-trotting elite by offering them exclusivity, materiality and identity. So does the rise of nationalism threaten a lifestyle magazine that treats the world as one big upscale mall?" http://bit.ly/2s9jXY1

-- "Ghost in the fame machine," by Andrew Crofts in the Times Literary Supplement: "You don't argue with your clients, or challenge their statements, however repulsive you may find them personally, unless they are contradicting themselves or saying something that either the publishers or the eventual readers are going to find hard to swallow." http://bit.ly/2uryY8e (h/t ALDaily.com)

-- "From Ptolemy to GPS, the Brief History of Maps," by Clive Thompson in the July Smithsonian - per The Browser's description: The Greek astrologer Claudius Ptolemy drew the first realistic maps of the world in the 2nd century AD in order to specify places of birth more precisely and thus cast better horoscopes. He knew that the Earth was round, so he calculated a way of reducing its three dimensions to two. He added lines of latitude and longitude. He even coined a name for his new discipline: Geography. When the Roman Empire fell, his techniques were lost to the West for a thousand years." http://bit.ly/2sYZZlR

-- "The Nihilism of Julian Assange," by Sue Halpern in the N.Y. Review of Books, reviewing the Laura Poitras documentary "Risk": "When the film was released this spring, Poitras was loudly criticized by Assange's supporters for changing it from the hero's journey she debuted last year at Cannes to something more critical, complicated, and at best ambivalent about the man. Yet ambivalence is the most honest thing about the film. It is the emotion Assange often stirs up in those who support the WikiLeaks mission but are disturbed by its chief missionary." http://bit.ly/2spdWe1 ... ***Trailer*** http://bit.ly/2ttxc9y

-- "Pearls Before Breakfast," by Gene Weingarten in the April 8, 2007 WaPo Magazine: "In the three-quarters of an hour that Joshua Bell played, seven people stopped what they were doing to hang around and take in the performance, at least for a minute. Twenty-seven gave money, most of them on the run -- for a total of $32 and change. That leaves the 1,070 people who hurried by, oblivious, many only three feet away, few even turning to look." http://wapo.st/2spkDNg ... ***3-min. video*** http://bit.ly/2urM8SN (h/t Longform.org)

-- "Disrupt the Citizen: Against ride-sharing," by Nikil Saval in n+1 magazine: "Few moments in history have been so crowded with narcissists: incapable of acknowledging the existence of others, unwilling to permit state and civil society-with their strange,

confusing, downright offensive cult of taxes, regulations and public services-to impede their quest for monopolizing the mind, muscles, heart rate, and blood of every breathing person on earth." http://bit.ly/2ttMIIY

-- **"It's Amazing I Haven't Ruined Myself,"** by Timothy Bella in Esquire: "Once revered as one of the greatest heroes in Red Sox history, today Curt Schilling is known as much for offensive memes as for his bloody sock. Is his goal to dominate right-wing media - or to win a spot in the Senate?" http://bit.ly/2ttu3GK

-- **"The Last Shot**," by ProPublica's Alec MacGillis: "Amid a surging opiate crisis, the maker of the anti-addiction drug Vivitrol skirted the usual sales channels. It found a captive market for its once-a-month injection in the criminal justice system." http://bit.ly/2trYX2t

-- **"Serena Williams's Love Match,"** by Buzz Bissinger on the cover of August's Vanity Fair: "Last January, on the eve of the Australian Open, Serena Williams handed her fiancé, Alexis Ohanian, a paper bag containing six positive pregnancy tests. It was just the latest surprise in an unlikely pairing: the world's greatest tennis player and the geek co-founder of Reddit. From their first date -- a magical six hours in Paris -- to their plans for the baby's arrival, this is the full love story." http://bit.ly/2ts12f6 (h/t Longreads.com)

-- **"Gizmondo's Spectacular Crack-up,"** by Randall Sullivan in the Oct. 2016 Wired: "In just a few years, it seems, [Bo Stefan] Eriksson went from languishing in a European jail cell to making millions as a tech executive to, even more improbably, becoming deputy commissioner of antiterrorism for an obscure Southern California transit police force." http://bit.ly/2t8MMFw

-- **"Chronicles of a Concerned Venezuelan: Scenes to Help You (Try to) Understand Venezuela,"** by Aglaia Berlutti on Global Voices: "I stumble around the dark apartment. Another blast goes off. It's almost 11 p.m. I make my way carefully with outstretched hands, listening to the sound of pots banging, the clack of tear gas guns discharging. In Venezuela the days don't ever seem to come to a complete end. Violence remains, continues, spreads. Normal means a collection of pains and terrors. Of closed doors and a general state of suspicion. We have survived this way for over a decade now." http://bit.ly/2t8o5ZH

-- **"The revolt of the public and the 'age of post-truth,'"** by Martin Gurri on The Fifth Wave: "Established institutions, the political process, the economy, 'the system,' all look to the public suspiciously like a lottery rigged in favor of the perpetual winners: a class of insiders who manage to be both self-righteous and self-serving, arrogant and failed. The terms of the divorce would send the lot of them packing." http://bit.ly/2u6JGlf

Playbookers

SPOTTED: Supreme Court Justice Elena Kagan last night taking in "Wonder Woman" at the Uptown movie theater in Cleveland Park ... Donna Brazile enjoying a late dinner at Sfoglina ... Sen. Tim Kaine (D-Va.) yesterday in the Detroit airport. Per our tipster: "he was on his way to Bay City, Michigan, for his son's wedding. He said it was his first vacation in over a year!"

OUT AND ABOUT IN ASPEN - Jordanian Amb. Dina Kawar hosted a dinner last night at Matsuhisa in downtown Aspen celebrating Walter Isaacson's tenure at the Aspen Institute-- Isaacson steps down as CEO and president at the end of the year. On the menu: rock shrimp tempura, black cod with sweet miso, Wagyu beef ribeye, assorted sushi rolls and a mini chocolate soufflé and mocha ice cream.

SPOTTED: David Petraeus chatting with Steve Case, David Rubenstein, Colorado Gov. John Hickenlooper, Andrea Mitchell chatting with Lisa Monaco, Charles Duhigg, Elliot Gerson, Elizabeth Economy, Ernest Moniz (drinking a cocktail), Garrett Graff, Julian Gewirtz, Mickey Edwards, Neal Katyal, Peter Wehner and Michael Gerson.

-- OVERHEARD at the Aspen airport this morning: "Andrea Mitchell, please come to the Delta gate. ... Chicago passenger Harman, Jane Harman, please come to Gate 3." She was later spotted reading on her iPhone in the first row of first class on the United 5829 flight to Chicago. ... **SPOTTED:** Sen. Cory Booker (D-N.J.) holding court last night in the lobby of the Hotel Jerome in Aspen ... Sen. Mark Warner (D-Va.) late last night in the lobby of the Little Nell hotel in Aspen

TRANSITIONS - PAM STEVENS has joined the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy as the associate director for external affairs. Stevens is a Reagan and Bush administration veteran who has more recently been director of media affairs and strategic initiatives for the House GOP Conference. ... **Dave Perera** starts on Monday as the new communications director for Rep. Nanette Barragán (D-Calif.). He most recently was assistant VP for government and policy at the Internet Security Alliance and before that was a cybersecurity reporter at Politico. ...

... Andrew Wimer has started as a speechwriter for Labor Secretary Alexander Acosta. He previously was senior media manager at the National Federation of Independent Business and was communications director for former Rep. Joe Pitts (R-Pa.). ...**Caroline Thorman** starts on Monday as communications director for Rep. French Hill (R-Ark.); she had her last day as deputy communications director for Rep. Barry Loudermilk (R-Ga.). ... Direct Impact has appointed **Michael Fleischer** as president and general manager; he's been with DI since 2012. http://bur.sn/zplm30dce8B

WELCOME TO THE WORLD -- Stacey Radnor, director of public affairs at Everytown for Gun Safety, and **Zach Lipson,** a realtor at Keller Williams Capital Properties, welcomed "the newest member of the unofficial Every Baby for Gun Safety" into the world Thursday night: Elle Sylvie Lipson.

BIRTHDAY OF THE DAY: NBC News White House correspondent **Kristen Welker.**

How she's celebrating: "I am celebrating my birthday with my husband John, his family and my family at his house on Cape Cod. I can't wait for some long walks, family time and of course, lobster!" Read her Playbook Plus Q&A: http://politi.co/2scESti

BIRTHDAYS: Guy Cecil, chairman of Priorities USA ... Mike Czin, VP of SKDKnickerbocker ... Brett Zongker, comms manager at GW and an AP alum ... Diane Ravitch is 79 ... Sen. Joni Ernst (R-Iowa) is 46 (hat tip: Leigh Claffey) ... HFA alum Kate Wilson ... Keith Macleod ... Data Trust's Travis Holler ... ClimateWire's Erika Bolstad ... Mara Lee Durrell ... Canada turns 150 on its national day ... Renewable Fuels Association president and CEO Bob Dinneen ... Politico's Mitchell Bowman ... Liz Elkiss ... Kevin Franck ... Lida Masoudpour ... Neal Patel of OMB leg affairs (h/t Barb Menard, filing from Rehoboth Beach) ...

... Clark Jennings ... Paul Friedman ... Bess Caughran Allen ... Jioni Palmer ... TED's Laura McClure Houghton ... NARAL's Bianca Rosales ... Julie Gibson, the pride of Missouri AND an honorary Iowan ... John Giesser ... Pat McQuillan (h/ts Teresa Vilmain) ... Kaye Willis White ... Pierson Fowler ... Steve Gladis ... Amelia Rossini ... Gwendolen Cates ... Grace Koh ... Ricky Diaz ... Greta Lundberg ... Bill Rehkopf ... cookiemaker Wally "Famous" Amos is 81 ... dancer-choreographer Twyla Tharp is 76 ... Dan Aykroyd is 65 ... actress Pamela Anderson is 5-0 (h/ts AP)

THE SHOWS by @MattMackowiak, filing from Austin:

-- NBC's "Meet the Press": HHS Secretary Tom Price ... Sen. Tom Carper (D-Del.) ... Sen. Bill Cassidy (R-La.) ... Malcolm Gladwell. Panel: Hugh Hewitt, Kasie Hunt, Katty Kay and Eugene Robinson.

-- ABC's "This Week": Gov. John Kasich (R-Ohio) ... White House homeland security and counterterrorism adviser Tom Bossert. Russia panel: Peter Baker, Rep. Adam Kinzinger (R-Ill.) and Robin Wright. Political panel: Ana Navarro, Ramesh Ponnuru, Anna Palmer and Jake Sherman.

-- "Fox News Sunday": Sen. Rand Paul (R-Ky.) ... White House director of legislative affairs Marc Short ... Sen. Joe Manchin (D-W.Va.). Panel: Kim Strassel, Jerry Seib, Charlie Hurt and Marie Harf (substitute host: Fox News' John Roberts)

-- CNN's "State of the Union": Sen. Ben Sasse (R-Neb.) ... Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.). Panel: Van Jones and Jason Kander, Rep. Marsha Blackburn (R-Tenn.) and Scott Jennings.

-- CBS's "Face the Nation": Sen. Mike Lee (R-Utah) ... Peter Baker, John Farrell, Lynne Olson and Sally Mott Freeman ... "City of Ghosts" director Matthew Heineman and Syrian journalist and "Raqqa is Being Slaughtered Silently" co-founder Abdalaziz Alhamza. Political panel: Lanhee Chen, Michael Graham, Ezra Klein and Ruth Marcus.

-- CNN's "Inside Politics" with John King: Panel: Julie Pace, Perry Bacon, Sara

Murray and Phil Mattingly.

-- CNN's "Reliable Sources": Panel: Carl Bernstein, The Baltimore Sun's David Zurawik, Poynter Institute's Kelly McBride, Ben Ferguson and Olivia Nuzzi.

-- Fox News' "Sunday Morning Futures": Sen. Pat Toomey (R-Pa.) ... Pete Hoekstra ... Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton. Panel: Steve Sigmund and Brad Blakeman (substitute host: Fox News' Sandra Smith).

-- Fox News' "MediaBuzz": Sharyl Attkisson ... Mollie Hemingway ... Ray Suarez ... Anthony Scaramucci.

-- CNN's "Fareed Zakaria GPS": Sen. Mark Warner (D-Va.). Panel: Nancy Gibbs and Jeffrey Goldberg, Walter Isaacson and Dan Senor.

-- C-SPAN: "The Communicators": FCC Commissioner Mignon Clyburn (D), questioned by Telecommunications Reports' Lynn Stanton ... **"Newsmakers":** Rep. Kevin Brady (R-Tex.), questioned by The Wall Street Journal's Richard Rubin and The Washington Post's Mike DeBonis ... **"Q&A"**: Pat Buchanan.

-- PBS's "To the Contrary" with Bonnie Erbé: (airs all weekend): Panel: Del. Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-D.C.), Independent Women's Forum president Carrie Lukas, Anushay's Point founder Anushay Hossain and Women for Trump's Ann Stone.

-- Hearst / Sony's "Matter of Fact" with Soledad O'Brien (airing Sunday in most markets, check local listings): Rep. Cedric Richmond (D-La.) ... Young Invincibles leader Jen Mishory ... Rep. Cheri Bustos (D-Ill.).

-- **Washington Times' "Mack on Politics"** weekly politics podcast with Matt Mackowiak (download on iTunes, Google Play, or Stitcher or listen at http://bit.ly/2omgw1D): Author and Fox News anchor Eric Bolling.

****** **A message from the Coalition for Affordable Prescription Drugs (CAPD):** A new study estimates that Medicare Part D costs would be 58 percent higher without pharmacy benefit managers' (PBMs') clinical tools and price negotiations with drug manufacturers and pharmacies. The study shows PBMs significantly lower premiums and out-of-pocket costs for Medicare beneficiaries. In fact, PBMs are projected to save Medicare Part D $896 billion over the next decade. Thanks to PBMs, Medicare Part D continues to drive savings and value for taxpayers and beneficiaries, ensuring that more than 39 million American seniors can access the prescription drugs they need. Learn more at affordableprescriptiondrugs.org ******

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To: Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
From: Morning Energy
Sent: Thur 5/25/2017 2:26:24 PM
Subject: POLITICO's Morning Energy, presented by POET: DOE, FERC nominees ready for their closeups — Keystone hints in Trump's Paris dilemma — Montana votes on Zinke's seat today

By Anthony Adragna | 05/25/2017 10:23 AM EDT

With help from Esther Whieldon, Eric Wolff, Darius Dixon and Bernie Becker

DOE, FERC NOMS STEP INTO THE SENATE SPOTLIGHT: The Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee is trying to vet the energy appointees as quickly as possible, so today brings a three-fer: Deputy Energy Secretary candidate Dan Brouillette, and FERC picks Neil Chatterjee and Rob Powelson are all getting their time in the sun today. Brouillette is well liked among those who know him from his work on congressional affairs at DOE in the early years of the George W. Bush administration. But most of energy industry's interest is focused on the potential FERC commissioners, and they are hoping there are no hiccups for Chatterjee and Powelson so that they can be sped off to restore the agency's quorum.

Smooth sailing? Chatterjee, an aide to Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, is well-known to just about everyone on the energy committee (ENR Chairwoman Lisa Murkowski deemed Chatterjee the "energy whisperer" as he helped shepherd last year's energy bill through the Senate). Powelson, who has been a member of the Pennsylvania Public Utilities Commission since 2008, including several years as its chairman, has strong ties to his state's congressional delegation. He did an extensive interview with POLITICO last fall, shortly after he became the president of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners, discussing natural gas pipeline infrastructure, the drama unfolding in regional electricity markets and carbon pricing. But Powelson got in hot water in March for saying that people protesting pipeline projects were engaged in a "jihad" against natural gas.

Duty calls: Getting through the hearing is likely to be easier than giant backlog of work that awaits the two nominees at FERC should they be confirmed, as Darius explained earlier this month. Add to that the constant flow of tasks on physical and cybersecurity matters, income tax issues and conflict around PURPA. Both Chatterjee and Powelson have been in government for more than seven years, which makes their financial disclosures and ethics agreements fairly yawn-worthy. For his part, Brouillette is giving up interests he has in four small utilities, if confirmed. But with Memorial Day recess afoot, FERC's quorumless streak will hit the four-month mark before ENR can even vote on them, let alone the full Senate. The hearing starts at 9:45 a.m. in Dirksen 366.

GLIMPSES OF KEYSTONE IN PARIS DEBATE: President Donald Trump's drawn out decision of whether to leave the Paris agreement evokes a political dynamic oddly similar to the one that Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama faced on the Keystone XL pipeline, another largely symbolic decision, Pro's Nick Juliano reports. He faces pressure from Washington elites and foreign allies who want him to stick with the Paris deal - echoing the D.C. establishment and Canadian government pressure for Obama and Clinton to back Keystone.

Trump is hearing arguments that sticking with the nonbinding pact would weaken his domestic energy agenda from attorneys general in energy-producing states like West Virginia and Texas, and conservative groups in Washington like the American Energy Alliance . But his most diehard supporters are hardly taking to the streets over the Paris deal, and even some conservative Republicans don't seem all that invested in his ultimate decision. "You know, I didn't like the way that President Obama got into that, but as I think one of my colleagues has pointed out it doesn't cost us any money, and it doesn't obligate us to do anything," Sen. John Cornyn (R-Texas) said Wednesday. "So it's more an appearances issue."

Trump is said to be leaning against remaining in the deal, which he promised to cancel during the campaign. But he has changed his mind on several other issues so far this year, and a decision has been slow in coming amid the divisions within the administration. Sticking with it would send a begrudging yet powerful signal that the U.S. acknowledges that climate change is a problem worth addressing, even as the administration is already in the process of rolling back Obama's rules that limit greenhouse gas emissions from power plants, automobiles and other major sources, while it hurries to open up vast new tracts of federal land and water to fossil fuel development.

IT'S ANOTHER BUSY DAY IN WASHINGTON! I'm your host Anthony Adragna, and the Renewable Fuels Association's Rachel Gantz was first to pick out Vice Presidents Spiro Agnew and John Calhoun as the only two to resign. For today: During the Civil War, who was Jefferson Davis' vice president? Send your tips, energy gossip and comments to aadragna@politico.com, or follow us on Twitter @AnthonyAdragna, @Morning_Energy, and @POLITICOPro.

PROGRAMMING NOTE - Due to the Memorial Day holiday, Morning Energy will not publish on Monday, May 29. Our next Morning Energy will publish on Tuesday, May 30. Please continue to follow Pro Energy issues here.

ME FIRST - 21 REPUBLICAN SENATORS: BID ADIEU TO PARIS: A group of Republican senators are out with a letter this morning to Trump urging him to leave the Paris agreement, arguing that sticking with it might allow environmentalists to force climate change regulations through litigation. "Leading environmental attorneys have been candid that they intend to use the Paris Agreement and the existing endangerment finding to force EPA to regulate under Section 115 of Clean Air Act," wrote the lawmakers, including Jim Inhofe, John Barrasso and Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell. Interestingly, they argue the U.S. will retain a voice in future discussions through its participation in the UNFCCC, which some conservatives have urged Trump to withdraw from as well.

But Brown thinks Trump will come around: California Gov. Jerry Brown told reporters at a climate change conference hosted by the Netherlands in San Francisco he considers Trump a political "realist" who will likely listen to what Pope Francis, China and other world leaders are saying on the issue, POLITICO California's Carla Marinucci reports.

**** A message from POET - one of the world's largest ethanol producers:** With scientists and engineers, POET operates 30 biofuel facilities & America's first cellulosic biofuel plant. We produce a cleaner fuel for millions of drivers, every day. We're POET and we're driving

innovation, from the ground up. Learn more here. **

MONTANA FILLS ZINKE'S SEAT TODAY: Big Sky voters head to the polls today to fill Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke's congressional seat. Republicans are saying the race between Republican Greg Gianforte and Democrat Rob Quist is "closer than it should be" in the traditionally red state. Polls close at 8 p.m. Montana time so it may be a while before we know how this one turns out. There are late-breaking reports that Gianforte assaulted a reporter Wednesday.

OPEC EXTENDS QUOTA CUTS: OPEC members agreed today to extend their oil production cut to March 2018, POLITICO Europe's Sara Stefanini reports. The move was widely expected.

NEVER GONNA GIVE YOU UP: Don't look now, but a bipartisan Senate group is coming together to get a group of energy tax credits finally over the hump. The group will be working on what a Democratic leadership aide called a "few small items that are well-vetted and should have already been processed," including clean energy tax credits that supporters say were mistakenly left out of a 2015 budget deal, a nuclear production tax credit that lawmakers from Georgia and South Carolina have been fighting for, and an incentive for carbon capture. Tom Carper (D-Del.), Chris Coons (D-Del.), Lindsey Graham (R-S.C.), Heidi Heitkamp (D-N.D.), Tim Scott (R-S.C.) and Sheldon Whitehouse (D-R.I.) are all expected to join the group - which might see a couple potential legislative vehicles pop up this year, given that lawmakers will have to deal with government funding and the debt ceiling, and are pressing ahead on tax reform. "The nuclear production tax credits just need to be done," Scott said Wednesday, adding he'd work with "any group that's willing to have the conversation about getting that accomplished."

One name not attached to the working group: Sen. Dean Heller (R-Nev.), a backer of renewable energy tax credits who also happens to be an endangered GOP incumbent next year. But the Democratic aide denied Heller was excluded for political reasons, instead saying he didn't take part in efforts to get the tax incentives extended in the most recent budget deal.

PRUITT MEETS PUBLIC HEALTH GROUP: EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt met Wednesday with representatives of the American Academy of Pediatrics to discuss "how we can continue to improve children's environmental health." The group tweeted, "whenever there is an opportunity to advocate for children to those in power, AAP leaders are there."

E15 WAIVER HEARING STILL COMING: It's not scheduled yet, but Senate EPW Chairman John Barrasso told reporters Wednesday that legislation allow year-round sale of gasoline blends with 15 percent ethanol would still get an EPW markup. "We haven't sent a date yet, but we'll do it," he said. ME readers likely remember the promise of a committee vote got a bloc of corn-state Republicans to back an (ultimately unsuccessful) effort to overturn an Obama-era methane regulation.

'First step' on RFS reform: The House Energy and Commerce Committee took its first official step in revamping the Renewable Fuel Standard with a roundtable discussion Wednesday. "We're looking forward to continuing our thorough review in order to better understand what's working, what's not, and whether the goals of the program are being achieved," a committee aide

told ME.

MURKOWSKI REMAINS COOL TO SPR SELLOFF: Don't expect Murkowski, chairman of the energy panel and senior appropriator, to get behind the Trump administration's desire to sell off half the nation's emergency oil stockpile. "I think the direction that the administration is taking or as I'm reading the lines there is 'we don't necessarily need as robust a Strategic Petroleum Reserve because what we're going to do is enhance energy production,'" she said. "I like that, but does that really happen? ... There are some things that need to be reviewed and considered." She promised to ask Brouillette about the matter during his confirmation hearing today.

MAIL CALL! SAVE THE WETLANDS FUNDING: 175 House members and 45 senators sent letters to top appropriators asking for robust fiscal 2018 funding for the North American Wetlands Conservation Act program. "NAWCa represents a reasonable, cost-effective approach to wildlife conservation," they wrote. "While we understand the fiscal constraints this year, we would like to point to this program's demonstrated success at developing non-federal sources and diverse partnerships for the conservation of wildlife habitat." Both letters received significant bipartisan support.

LAWMAKERS TO GAO: TAKE A LOOK AT HANFORD: An eclectic group of House and Senate lawmakers - Senate ENR ranking member Maria Cantwell, House Energy and Commerce Chairman Greg Walden, Sen. Patty Murray, House Energy and Commerce ranking member Frank Pallone, Sen. Ron Wyden, Rep. Dan Newhouse and House Republican Conference Chair Cathy McMorris Rodgers - asked GAO in a letter to look at ongoing cleanup efforts at the Hanford Nuclear Reservation in Washington and examine what remediation still needs to be completed. "We were alarmed by the recent tunnel collapse at the Hanford site, and are concerned that future events could put the safety of workers, the public and environment at risk," they wrote.

DELAWARE TRADES WANT EPA TO CHANGE RFS OBLIGATION: The Delware AFL-CIO and Delware Building Trades are asking EPA's Pruitt to change which companies bear the obligation of complying with the Renewable Fuel Standard. In a letter sent yesterday, the union argues that the current system, which requires refiners to purchase credits to prove compliance, "puts merchant refiners like the [PBF Energy's] Delaware City at risk." The union joins the United Steelworkers in asking for the change.

REPORT: SIGNIFICANT PHISHING ATTACK AT INTERIOR: A major cybersecurity attack in January 2016 that likely originated outside the U.S. resulted in 1,500 Interior employees receiving phishing emails and approximately 100 compromised email accounts, according to a report released Wednesday by the agency's inspector general. In response, official accelerated the deployment of a two-step authentication process for email access and stopped the attack within 11 days of it beginning.

REPORT: ANTIQUITIES ACT FUELS LOCAL ECONOMIES: The Mountain Pact, a collection of Colorado towns, released a white paper today analyzing the importance of the Antiquities Act for sustaining local economies in the West. "Investment in, protection and

expansion of public lands is a vital part of ensuring that mountain communities can continue to sustain and grow their outdoor economies," it states.

PESTICIDES BILL CLEARS HOUSE AGAIN: Lawmakers voted 256-165 Wednesday in favor of the Reducing Regulatory Burdens Act, which would exempt pesticide applicators from Clean Water Act permitting requirements, Pro's Annie Snider reports. Similar measures have cleared the House multiple times since a 2009 court ruling that mandated the Clean Water Act permits, but the Senate has never taken them up.

SENATE DEMOCRATS CRY FOUL OVER OVERSIGHT OBSTRUCTION: Sixteen senior Senate Democrats, led by Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, sent a letter to Trump demanding answers on whether the White House had instructed federal agencies not to respond to the oversight requests of Democrats. "While some agencies have responded to limited number of these requests, most have gone unanswered," they wrote. "If at the instruction of the White House information is being intentionally withheld on a partisan basis, such actions would be simply unacceptable." Tom Carper, top EPW Democrat, has raised serious concerns about the lack of responsive information coming from EPA to his oversight letter requests.

LIKE A GOOD NEIGHBOR, PERRY'S THERE: Energy Secretary Rick Perry will receive the U.S.-Mexico Chamber of Commerce's Good Neighbor Award tonight at 9 p.m. in celebration of "his leadership in fostering collaboration between the U. S. and Mexico during his tenure as Governor of the State of Texas."

UTAH TOURISM OFFICE PROMOTING NATIONAL MONUMENTS IN CROSS HAIRS: The Utah Office of Tourism is promoting the Bears Ears National Monument even as the state's governor and congressional delegation is pushing Trump to rescind the monument. Gov. Gary Herbert signed a resolution in February urging the administration to remove the designation. But the tourism office within the governor's office has a page on its website dedicated to the monument. "This 1.35-million-acre national monument covers a broad expanse of red rock, juniper forests, high plateau, cultural, historic and prehistoric legacy that includes an abundance of early human and Native American historical artifacts," the website says. "Just as important to the Bears Ears designation are the modern-day connections that the Navajo Nation, Ute Mountain Ute Tribe, Hopi Nation and other tribes have to this land."

MOVER, SHAKER: Tom Starrs, vice president of market strategy and policy for SunPower Corp., has been named chairman of the Solar Energy Industries Association board; Michael Maulick, president of SunLink Corp., will be vice chairman.

QUICK HITS

- China Shuts Only Undersea Coal Mine Amid Production Rebound. AP.

- 9.8 million people employed by renewable energy, according to new report. CNBC.

- U.S. should act against proposed Russian gas pipeline, Democratic senator says. MarketWatch.

- Presidents can't undo national monuments, new study says. Salt Lake Tribune.

- France's Macron to try to convince Trump to back Paris accords: diplomats. Reuters.

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Daily Environment Report

Afternoon Briefing - Your Preview of Today's News

The following news provides a snapshot of what Bloomberg BNA is working on today. Read the full version of all the stories in the final issue, published each night. The Bloomberg BNA Daily Environment Report is brought to you by EPA Libraries. Please note, these materials may be copyrighted and should not be forwarded outside of the U.S. EPA. If you have any questions or no longer wish to receive these messages, please contact Josue Rivera-Olds at rivera-olds.josue@epa.gov, 202-566-1558.

Correction

Posted June 26, 2017, 03:34 P.M. ET

The June 16 story, "Less Use of Flame Retardant Lessens Impact of California Rule," was updated to reflect the proper name of the chemical group Methylene Diphenyl Diisocyanates. The online version has been corrected.

Pruitt Could Turn To Superfund Alternative

Posted June 26, 2017, 6:31 A.M. ET

By Sylvia Carignan

The Environmental Protection Agency may turn to a contentious alternative in its effort to streamline the Superfund program.

When applied to a contaminated site, the "Superfund Alternative Approach" uses the same standards and investigation process as sites going through the conventional Superfund program. But the site isn't added to the National Priorities List—a designation some companies, such as Saint-Gobain, strive to avoid.

The designation sometimes comes with a stigma for communities that don't want to publicize their contaminated site, and for companies that don't want to pay more for EPA-led cleanups.

In May, EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt asked his new Superfund task force to find ways to "utilize alternative and non-traditional approaches for financing site cleanups."

The agency is declining to state specifics about the task force's recommendations for Superfund reform, which were due to the administrator June 21.

As of the end of 2014, the most recent year for which figures are available, about 60 sites had alternative approach agreements, according to the agency. About 1,300 sites were on the National

Priorities List as of May 16.

Mixed Signals

The Superfund Alternative Approach can't be used at every site, and feedback on the approach has varied.

"Overall, it has a limited use on a few sites, but not a broad-based approach to cleanup," said Mathy Stanislaus, former assistant administrator of the EPA's Office of Land and Emergency Management, which handles Superfund.

He told Bloomberg BNA the Superfund Alternative Approach has been efficient in a few instances.

"There have been others where disagreement—because of the absence of enforcement provisions—has been caught in extended conversation," he said.

The EPA's official stance on the alternative approach notes that benefits may include "a community's good will at not having the site listed on the [National Priorities List], a [potentially responsible party's] willingness to negotiate a good-faith agreement, and the opportunity to start cleanup work more quickly than waiting for listing on the NPL."

Superfund alternative sites are not eligible for federal cleanup funds drawn from taxpayers and rely on funding from potentially responsible parties—companies that may have discharged contaminants at sites.

"Orphan" sites—often complex contamination cleanup projects where potential responsible parties have not been identified or are unable to pay—would not be able to benefit from the alternative approach.

If a potentially responsible party fails to meet its obligations, the EPA may still consider adding the site to the National Priorities List.

Avoiding Listing

In a recent case, a company involved an elected official in its efforts to keep a contaminated site off the National Priorities List.

A former Democratic state representative in Alabama admitted June 22 that he accepted $360,000 in donations to advocate against expanding a northern Birmingham Superfund site and adding it to the National Priorities List.

An Alabama law firm, Balch and Bingham LLP, represented two potentially responsible parties for the site's contamination and paid the representative, Oliver L. Robinson Jr., according to Robinson's plea agreement.

Robinson testified to a state commission that expanding the Superfund site would hurt the community's business opportunities.

In New York, Saint-Gobain Performance Plastics opposes National Priorities List designation for the its facility in the Village of Hoosick Falls, where perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) has contaminated the water supply.

If the site is listed, Saint-Gobain branding and communications director Dina Pokedoff said in a statement to Bloomberg BNA, "The process could be detrimental to the positive remediation efforts already taking place in the village if the EPA were to take the lead role."

Listing the site, and getting the federal government further involved, could slow the company's water remediation work, Pokedoff's statement said.

Possible Benefits

For sites where potentially responsible parties are willing to enter into cleanup agreements, the alternative approach can be more efficient than National Priorities List consideration.

Bart Seitz, a partner in the Washington, D.C., office of Baker Botts LLP, said a client found the approach "very effective."

"It did allow for significant streamlining, particularly on the technical side," Seitz told Bloomberg BNA.

But, Seitz said, the decision to take the alternative approach depends somewhat on what EPA region the site is in. Some regional directors are more receptive to the alternative approach than others, he said.

Regions 1, 2, 6, and 7 have not had alternative approach agreements from sites in their geographic boundaries, according to EPA data from 2002 to the present.

Regions 3 and 5 have the most alternative approach agreements, though some sites may share agreements and other sites may have multiple agreements. Regions 4, 8, 9, and 10 also had alternative approach agreements.

A Superfund Substitute?

Doug Arnold, an environmental law partner in the Atlanta office of Alston and Bird LLP, said the alternative isn't likely to replace the conventional Superfund site investigation and listing process.

"There's recognition or consensus that Superfund, or what it's intended to do, is important, but [there is a need] to step back and figure out why these sites on the list are so far from finished," Arnold told Bloomberg BNA.

Justices Reject Challenge to EPA Equipment Malfunction Rule

Posted June 26, 2017, 9:38 A.M. ET

By David Schultz

The U.S. Supreme Court will not review an EPA regulation that requires industrial facilities to comply with air pollution limits even when equipment malfunctions.

The decision may give the Trump administration, which had opposed Supreme Court consideration, more latitude to potentially repeal or revise the rule in the future. The court announced its decision in its June 26 orders list.

The Environmental Protection Agency rule at issue was enacted during the Obama administration. It stripped a federal air pollution exemption that allowed some facilities to avoid penalties when their equipment suffers unavoidable malfunctions. A group of companies and industry associations, including U.S. Sugar Corp. and the American Petroleum Institute, challenged this rule but lost in U.S. Sugar Corp. v. EPA at the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit.

The Trump administration asked the Supreme Court not to hear this case. Attorneys following this issue have said that the administration wants to preserve its ability to change the rule in the future, potentially giving states more flexibility in enforcing it.

Cheniere's LNG Market Share Expands as Korea Contract Starts

Posted June 26, 2017, 02:23 P.M. ET

By Ryan Collins and Naureen S. Malik

Add South Korea to the growing list of regulars buying America's shale gas.

Cheniere Energy Inc., the sole exporter of liquefied natural gas from U.S. shale basins, commenced a 20-year supply agreement with Korea Gas Corp. at a ceremony in Louisiana on June 25. Under the deal originally signed in 2012, Cheniere will make available for delivery about 3.5 million tons of the supercooled fuel annually to South Korea, the world's second-biggest buyer last year, representing at least $548 million of revenue per year.

Just last year, the first cargo of LNG from the lower 48 states sailed from Cheniere's Sabine Pass terminal in Louisiana. Now, buyers including South Korea, Mexico, Chile and Japan have set the U.S. on a path to becoming a net gas exporter for the first time in decades. As the surge in production from America's shale reservoirs transforms the nation into a global gas powerhouse, the U.S. may surpass Australia and Qatar to becoming the world's largest LNG supplier by 2035.

LNG may play an even bigger role in meeting South Korea's energy demand after the election of Moon Jae-in as president in May. Moon has promised to transition away from coal and nuclear power, favoring natural gas and renewables. With the Korea Gas supply agreement in place, Cheniere is in a position to capitalize on the policy shift.

"This guy is not into coal, and he's also said no new coal-fired generation. And on the nuclear front, he shut down Korea's oldest reactor," Madeline Jowdy, senior director of global gas and LNG at Pira Energy Group in New York, said in a phone interview June 23, referring to Moon. "What that means is that it's directionally good for the U.S" for LNG exports.

South Korea has already received eight cargoes loaded with Sabine Pass gas as of June 21, according to data compiled by Bloomberg. But the vessel that will arrive early next month will be the first to be received under the long-term supply deal.

The SM Eagle departed Cheniere's Sabine Pass June 3 and is headed for South Korea, according to vessel tracking data compiled by Bloomberg.

"The two countries are undergoing occasional disputes on issues of unbalanced trade and I'm personally so glad to see the bright future on this matter since today's event can be the beginning of a significant rise in the Korean imports from the United States," Lee Seung-Hoon, chief executive

officer of Korea Gas, said at the event June 25.

South Korea bought 34.19 million tons of LNG last year, according to the International Group of Liquefied Natural Gas importers, the second most after Japan.

Cheniere is already the biggest U.S. buyer of physical natural gas. And once all seven trains the company's building at Sabine Pass and a Corpus Christi, Texas, terminal are online, it expects to be two to three times bigger than the second-largest consumer.

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Former Environmental Justice Official's Records Sought in Lawsuit

Posted June 26, 2017, 11:31 A.M. ET

By Andrew Childers

A free-market advocacy group wants to know if a former EPA official has unduly influenced the agency's environmental justice work since leaving the Obama administration.

The Southeastern Legal Foundation is suing the Environmental Protection Agency to obtain communications between Lisa Garcia, a former senior environmental justice adviser to the EPA administrator under the Obama administration who is now at Earthjustice, and the agency's Office of Environmental Justice. The Southeastern Legal foundation in its June 26 lawsuit in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Georgia said the EPA has not yet responded to its Freedom of Information Act requests seeking those communications (Se. Legal Found v. EPA, N.D. Ga., No. 1:17-cv-02365-AT, 6/26/17).

The Southeastern Legal Foundation did not say what specific decisions it thinks Garcia may have influenced, but it said in its complaint that it is seeking information on "the relationships between the Office of Environmental Justice and outside advocacy organizations" such as Earthjustice. The foundation is seeking records of Garcia's communications with Earthjustice from December 2009 to March 2014, when she served in the Obama administration. The lawsuit also seeks any communications between Earthjustice and the EPA's Office of Environmental Justice from January 2014 to Sept. 26, 2016.

Neither the Southeastern Legal Foundation nor Garcia could be reached for comment.

House Panel to Mark Up Yucca Mountain Nuclear Waste Bill

Posted June 26, 2017, 10:45 A.M. ET

By Ari Natter

The House Energy and Commerce Committee will mark up legislation this week that would restart efforts to make Yucca Mountain the U.S. permanent repository for nuclear waste, committee spokesman Dan Schneider said in an email.

The draft bill, known as Nuclear Waste Policy Act Amendments of 2017, would advance licensing efforts that the Obama administration put on hold. The bill would also authorize the Energy Department to enter into contracts with private interim storage facilities before a permanent

repository is developed.

Energy and Commerce's Energy and Environment Subcommittee approved a draft Yucca bill on June 15. Among the three Democratic amendments that were all introduced and eventually withdrawn was one from Rep. Scott Peters (D-Calif.). It proposed removing language linking Energy Department agreement on interim storage with the final decision on Yucca Mountain. He wanted the interim storage to be able to move forward without Yucca authorization.

Yucca Mountain, located 90 miles northwest of Las Vegas, is opposed by Nevada Gov. Brian Sandoval (R) and most of the state's congressional delegation.

EPA Seeks Experts for Several Advisory Committees

Posted June 26, 2017, 10:39 A.M. ET

By Catherine Douglas Moran

The EPA is seeking nominations for several advisory committees, according to a notice to be published in the Federal Register June 27. The call for scientific experts for the Environmental Protection Agency's Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee, Science Advisory Board, and six SAB committees comes after a shakeup in membership for the Board of Scientific Counselors in May.

The six SAB committees are:

- Chemical Assessment Advisory Committee;
- Drinking Water Committee;
- Ecological Processes and Effects Committee;
- Environmental Economics Advisory Committee;
- Environmental Engineering Committee; and the
- Radiation Advisory Committee.

Nominations are open up to 30 days after it is published.

European Companies to Report Environmental Risks in 2018

Posted June 26, 2017, 02:07 P.M. ET

By Stephen Gardner

Companies operating in the European Union can lean on non-binding guidance published by the European Commission June 26 when meeting an obligation to begin reporting environmental and social information starting in 2018.

For many large companies, which already report non-financial information, the EU obligations will not be new. For companies that do not track environmental or social information, the EU rules require them to explain why they have not adopted relevant policies.

According to the commission, the EU's executive arm, the disclosure obligations will affect about 6,000 companies.

Under a 2014 EU law on non-financial reporting (Directive 2014/95/EU), listed companies with more than 500 employees must detail in their corporate disclosures their policies on environmental, social, and human rights issues, and the potential harm to their business from environmental risks such as climate change.

European Commission Vice-President Valdis Dombrovskis said in a June 26 statement that the guidelines would be relevant for companies in all sectors and would help "investors, lenders and society at large" to understand how environmental risks could affect corporations.

The commission added that the guidance would enable companies to report relevant information in the context of the Paris Agreement on tackling climate change and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, which are intended to put the planet on an environmentally sustainable track by 2030.

The EU financial reporting rules do not require companies to adhere to the commission's guidance, and companies are free to make non-financial disclosures in line with other standards, such as the United Nations Global Reporting Initiative or the International Organization for Standardization's ISO 26000 standard on social responsibility.

China Indicates Tougher Water, Soil Pollution Laws on Horizon

Posted June 26, 2017, 8:16 A.M. ET

By Michael Standaert

China's top legislative body is considering tougher penalties for those who pollute the country's water, and indicated it could prohibit the building of homes or schools in areas with contaminated soil.

The possible changes are part of proposed amendments to the country's water pollution law and a draft of what would be the country's first soil pollution law, according to statements June 23 on the website of the National People's Congress standing committee.

Maximum penalties for water pollution would be increased across the board, including penalties up to 1 million yuan ($146,000) for the most serious infractions, like falsifying water quality data. Currently, the highest possible penalty is 200,000 yuan, or about $29,000.

The pending soil pollution law as currently drafted would prohibit building of residential units, schools, hospitals or nursing homes in contaminated areas; restrict where crops could be grown or livestock grazed; and establish a directory of contaminated lands, and a classification system to indicate contamination levels.

Cadmium Contaminated Rice

China has dealt with major soil pollution problems, including cases where schools and homes have been built on contaminated sites, leading to illnesses. It also has had cases of rice grown in some areas being contaminated with high concentrations of the health-damaging heavy metal cadmium.

A detailed soil pollution survey, required under a soil pollution action plan released last year, will not be finished until around 2020, Qiu Qiwen, an official from the department of soil and environmental management of the Ministry of Environmental Protection, said last week. Qui asked the Chinese people for "patience" in what is expected to be a long process in dealing with soil pollution.

The draft of the water law is "broadly positive and moving in the right direction," said Debra Tan, head of China Water Risk, a think tank in Hong Kong that follows China water policy.

Tan especially pointed to the "increased fines, around five times the upper limit" currently. No timelines were announced for further action.

China Says Qinghai Province Beats Portugal's Clean-Power Record

Posted June 26, 2017, 9:34 A.M. ET

By Bloomberg News

The Chinese province of Qinghai in the nation's northwest set a record by using clean energy for seven continuous days, surpassing the previous title-holder Portugal.

Electricity consumption in the province reached 1.18 billion kilowatt-hours for the week ending June 23, with 72 percent of the power from hydro plants and the rest from solar and wind, State Grid Corp. of China, the nation's biggest power distributor, said in an emailed statement June 24.

The move set a record for clean energy delivery by duration. Portugal, where maximum power load is relatively equivalent to Qinghai, set the previous record last year when it got all its electricity from renewable energy for 107 hours, or less than five days, according to State Grid.

As of the end of May, renewable energy accounted for almost 83 percent of all the installed capacity in Qinghai, State Grid said. In the record-breaking week, the company used 67 million kilowatt-hours of electricity from new energy sources from other northwestern regions.

State Grid said it used systems that provide ultra-short forecasts for renewable energy output, analyze available sources and send alerts when clean power is available for purchase.

"Qinghai has good conditions to become a national integrated power base for renewable energy," Xu Honghua, vice chairman of China Renewable Energy Society, said in the statement. The province could be a pioneer in deriving all power and heating from local renewable energy, he said.

Qinghai had 6.9 gigawatts of total solar capacity at the end of the first quarter, the third-most in the nation, according to National Energy Administration. This is roughly equal to the entire solar market in France at the end of 2016.

The province is also seeking integrated uses of clean energy and plans 3,300 megawatts of wind power for 2017, requiring an additional 330 megawatts of storage, according to the Chinese Wind Energy Association.

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China 'Future Proofing' for Climate Change, Researcher Says

Posted June 26, 2017, 5:01 A.M. ET

By Michael Standaert

China is among the few countries preparing for a day when some coastal populations may need to move inland due to rising sea levels, according to a Cornell University study.

Most governments with long coastal areas have yet to adequately plan for resettling populations due to climate change, the study said.

But China, which is among the top five countries with the most people living in low-elevation coastal zones, is "future proofing" through some of its policies, study author Charles Geisler told Bloomberg BNA June 23.

The study applauded some of China's infrastructure developments. And it noted that China has built excess inland housing in areas that don't yet have the population to fill all residential units.

It also cited China's efforts to halt desertification in northern and western areas of the country, an attempt to increase the amount of arable land, as a positive strategy.

The study claimed that by 2100 as many as 2 billion people—out of an estimated global population of 11 billion—will have been forced to move because of climate-related rises in sea levels.

Tariffs on Solar Panels Seen Slowing Industry Growth by 66%

Posted June 26, 2017, 8:37 A.M. ET

By Joe Ryan

A trade complaint asking the Trump administration to impose tariffs on solar panels could devastate the U.S. industry, wiping out two-thirds of solar systems forecast to be installed over the next five years, according to a Jund 26 report by GTM Research.

The case, filed by bankrupt panel manufacturer Suniva Inc., would cause equipment prices to spike in the U.S. and prompt installations to fall to as low as 25 gigawatts from 2018 to 2022, down from GTM's current forecast of 72.5 gigawatts, GTM said. The report is the first on how tariffs may affect the industry.

Suniva, based in Georgia, brought the case to the U.S. International Trade Commission in April after filing for Chapter 11, saying tariffs are necessary for domestic manufacturers to compete with a surge of cheap panels from Southeast Asia. It's asking for duties of 40 cents a watt for solar cells, which now sell for 25 cents to 33 cents a watt. Much of the solar industry has objected, saying cheap panels have been the key to growth in the U.S.

"Suniva's new trade dispute would strike a devastating blow to the U.S. solar market," Cory Honeyman, GTM's associate director of U.S. solar, said in an email. "Shock waves will be felt across all segments."

Utility Scale

Suniva is "heartened" that the GTM report acknowledges the damage to the U.S. solar

manufacturing industry and disappointed that it fails to quantify the risks in connection with the petition's proposed remedy, Christian Hudson, an attorney for Suniva, said in a statement. A second company, SolarWorld AG's U.S. unit, joined the case in May.

GTM found the biggest impact of tariffs would likely be on large-scale unity solar farms, which compete as an alternative to natural gas. Residential rooftop installations are less apt to take a hit.

Solar installations in the U.S. have soared in recent years, largely because of low-cost panels imported from Asia. The price of photovoltaic cells within these panels has declined nearly 50 percent since 2012, according to Bloomberg New Energy Finance.

The ITC will conclude its investigation by Sept. 22, and send its recommendations to President Donald Trump for a decision later this year.

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Peru Makes Water Access Constitutional Right, Sets Up Sewage Plan

Posted June 26, 2017, 03:11 P.M. ET

By Lucien O. Chauvin

Peru is taking steps to implement President Pedro Pablo Kuczynski's pledge to vastly increase water and wastewater coverage, including modifying the country's Constitution to make water access a constitutional right.

The government in the final days of June approved two new mechanisms outlining its plans for water and sewage services as part of a broader effort for the country to join the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, which represents most of the world's wealthy economies, including the U.S.

The president also signed Law 30588 (June 22) modifying the country's 1993 Constitution to make access to water a constitutional right—a move that public advocacy groups have demanded for years. The designation will provide rural communities more leverage in dealing with the state and extractive companies that are developing mining and oil and gas projects. Peru in May registered about 50 conflicts over water use. The executive orders lay out the need to improve services to guarantee the population's health, safeguard water resources, and improve standards of living.

"The lack of sanitation services restricts the possibilities people have to carry out income-generating activities, contributing to the perverse cycle of water–health–poverty," the plan said.

The government published the National Sanitation Plan 2017–2021 (Executive Order 018-2017-VIVIENDA) June 25. It followed this on June 26 with Executive Order 019-2017-VIVIENDA, which includes the implementing bylaws for the Framework Law for Management and Provision of Sanitation Services. The framework law was presented through Legislative Decree 1280 published Dec. 16, 2016.

Right Track

"The administration is on the right track by placing access to water and sewage on the national agenda. It is a complex issue for Peru, where the economy expanded above 6 percent for a decade,

yet there are still many households that lack indoor plumbing," said Gonzalo Delacamara, a water specialist at Spain's IMDEA-Water, a scientific research group.

The National Institute of Statistics & Information reported at the end of 2016 that 94.5 percent of urban households had access to potable water, while 88.3 percent had access to sewage service. The numbers dropped considerably in rural areas, with 71.2 percent of households having access to water and only 24.6 percent having access to sewage service. Of the 81,231 rural and urban areas with 2,000 or fewer inhabitants, 54,318 did not have water or wastewater systems.

The targets in the national plan are 100 percent coverage for water and sewage services in urban areas by 2021. In rural areas, the aim is to achieve an 84.6 percent rate for water and 70 percent for sewage. Two-thirds of the investment, approximately $10.5 billion, will be used to expand sewage wastewater treatment. The plan also calls for all wastewater to be treated, up from 68 percent in 2016. It will increase to 40 percent in rural areas. No data exists for rural areas. The plan calls for full coverage for rural areas by 2030.

Fragmentation

According to Delacamara, the government needs to pay particular attention to zones—including urban areas—where water service is unregulated. About 35 percent of the population lives in areas not covered by a regulated waterworks. Peru has 50 water companies, but only one—the waterworks for Lima, the capital—is profitable. The Lima water company, Sedapal, had net earnings of $28 million in the first quarter of this year.

The existing waterworks are plagued by management and planning problems.

Peru's Housing, Construction and Sanitation Ministry, which will be in charge of implementing the plan and new regulations, listed at the end of 2016 more than 100 projects, with investments around $300 million, that were stalled because of faulty technical studies.

"The system is too fragmented. There are many places with populations of more than 15,000 people where the regulator has no information on quality of water provided," he said.

The 238-article bylaws for the framework set out to tackle this problem, specifying the roles of the national, regional, and local governments, as well as regulatory agencies. Chapter III of the legislation establishes procedures for merging services as a way of creating economies of scale. Article 26 specifies state incentives for integrating municipal services.

The national plan not only sets out goals, but also establishes investment levels. It concludes that $15.2 billion in investment is needed to increase service. Investment this year will be $1.8 billion, increasing annually until it reaches $4.1 billion in 2021, the final year of Kuczynski's five-year presidential term.

Financing will come from the Treasury, but the government also is planning to turn to multilateral organizations, such as the World Bank and Inter-American Development Bank, as well as national development banks such as Germany's KfW to cover investment needs. Loans will likely cover up to one-fifth of the investments.

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Daily Environment Report for EPA

To: Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
From: Anna Palmer Jake Sherman Daniel Lippman
Sent: Sun 11/12/2017 4:04:55 PM
Subject: POLITICO Playbook, presented by Morgan Stanley: TOOMEY says Moore should drop out, and Strange should mount a write in -- STRAUSS in Alabama: Republicans sticking with Moore -- TRUMP ABROAD: Getting along with Russia is a good thing -- VF's new editor

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Today's POLITICO Playbook presented by Morgan Stanley

By ANNA PALMER (anna@politico.com; @apalmerdc), JAKE SHERMAN (sherman@politico.com; @JakeSherman) and DANIEL LIPPMAN (daniel@politico.com; @dlippman)

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Driving the Day

Good Sunday morning. QUESTIONS FOR REPUBLICANS -- If Roy Moore wins, do Republicans allow him in the Senate Republican Conference? Do they put him on prime committees? Will there be a movement to expel Moore? And with Steve Bannon on the warpath, do they have the ability to sideline other candidates who are out of step with the party?

-- THE SENATE is a club. Friendships run deep. Moore is going to be an outsider in a place where relationships are the only thing that matter.

KELLYANNE CONWAY to **MARTHA RADDATZ** on **ABC'S "THIS WEEK"** about **ROY MOORE:** "I said very early in this process that the conduct as described should disqualify anyone from serving in public office and I'll stand by that. The president and others in the Republican Party have made clear that if the allegations are true this man should step aside. But I've gone farther than that, and I reflected something the vice president said as well, which is everyone should know that conduct is disqualifying. And Mr. Moore has denied that conduct. I think you've got other people out there talking about what did or did not happen many years ago."

-- SEN. PAT TOOMEY (R-PA.) to Chuck Todd on **NBC'S "MEET THE PRESS":** "I have to say, I think the accusations have more credibility than the denial, I think it would be best if Roy would just step aside. ... I think a write in is something we should certainly explore. I think Luther Strange would be a strong candidate for a write in."

-- W.H. LEG AFFAIRS DIRECTOR MARC SHORT to Chuck: "I think that there's a special place in hell for those who actually perpetrate these crimes, and I think Roy Moore has to do more explaining than he has done so far. But I think we here in

Washington have to be careful as well in this. Roy Moore is somebody who graduated from West Point, he served our country in Vietnam, he's been elected multiple times statewide in Alabama. The people in Alabama know Roy Moore better than we do here in DC, and I think we have to be very cautious, as Senator Toomey said of allegations that are 40 years old that arise a month before election day. ... There's no Senate seat more important than the notion of child pedophilia Chuck, I mean that's reality. But having said that, he has not been proven guilty. We have to afford him the chance to defend himself."

ON THE GROUND IN ALABAMA -- "Moore backers stand by their man," by Daniel Strauss in Birmingham: Roy "Moore denied the allegations before an audience of about 100 at the Mid-Alabama Republican Club in Vestavia Hills, drawing applause while casting the accounts as part of a conspiracy between the media, Democrats and the Republican establishment. With the report still just days old, it is still unclear if unwavering loyalty from some supporters will be enough to bring Moore a victory on Dec. 12, even in deeply Republican Alabama.

"But in the meantime, the response has shielded Moore against the demands of top Washington Republicans that he exit the race, and his base is prepared to fight on. 'There was kind of a shock of 'oh my goodness, these accusations.' And then the second reaction is, 'Why now?' said Ed Henry, a Republican state representative. 'It just stinks to high heaven. ... It's intended to demoralize and cause Republicans not to vote in December.'"

"Paul Reynolds, a Republican National Committee member from Alabama who attended the Moore event, said he has seen Republicans dividing into two categories since the Moore story broke. 'There are going to be those who want to wait and see,' Reynolds said. 'There will be others that are going to double down and try harder.'" http://politi.co/2zEWfaS

-- "Roy Moore Didn't Deny Kissing Teenagers as 30-Year-Old in Call With Lawmaker," by Washingtonian's Elaina Plott: "He couldn't deny relations with underage women in a phone call with a U.S. senator [on Friday]. According to three sources briefed on the call, Moore could not deny 'kissing' or 'dating' teenagers while in his thirties. The Republican senator encouraged Moore to drop out of the race, the sources said. A spokesman for Moore declined to comment on an account of the phone call." http://bit.ly/2zz443L

-- Alexander Marquardt (@MarquardtA): "Fmr Dep. DA Theresa Jones, who worked alongside Roy Moore, tells CNN: 'It was common knowledge that Roy dated high school girls, everyone we knew thought it was weird...We wondered why someone his age would hang out at high school football games and the mall...'"

THE CIVIL WAR CONTINUES -- MCCONNELL ON BANNON, via NYT's Sheryl Stolberg: "Stephen K. Bannon, President Trump's former chief strategist, is vowing to depose him, telling The New York Times that 'I have an objective that Mitch McConnell

will not be majority leader, and I believe will be done before this time next year.' Mr. McConnell, he added, 'has to go.'

"To that, Mr. McConnell laughed. 'You can write that down,' he said in an interview on Friday. 'I laughed. Ha-ha. That's a perfect response.' ... 'Mitch will be very calm, he'll be very strategic, he'll be very surgical and he will eventually eviscerate Mr. Bannon, and Bannon won't even know what happened to him,' said Bill Stone, a former chairman of the Republican Party in Louisville who is close to Mr. McConnell. 'Bannon is dealing with a man of intellect and a man of experience and a man of patience and resolve like he's never met in his life.'" http://nyti.ms/2zuY64i

WAPO'S DAN BALZ: "Trump dominates the GOP base. Party leaders live with the consequences": http://wapo.st/2jkT6IQ

SPOTTED: Jared Kushner and Ivanka Trump last night having dinner at Casa Luca

MOVEMENT IN THE MIDDLE EAST - NYT A1, "Trump Team Begins Drafting Middle East Peace Plan," by Peter Baker: "President Trump and his advisers have begun developing their own concrete blueprint to end the decades-old conflict between Israel and the Palestinians, a plan intended to go beyond previous frameworks offered by the American government in pursuit of what the president calls 'the ultimate deal.' After 10 months of educating themselves on the complexities of the world's most intractable dispute, White House officials said, Mr. Trump's team of relative newcomers to Middle East peacemaking has moved into a new phase of its venture in hopes of transforming what it has learned into tangible steps to end a stalemate that has frustrated even presidents with more experience in the region. ...

"Mr. Trump's team has collected 'non-papers' exploring various issues related to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, and officials said they expected to address such perennial dividing points as the status of Jerusalem and settlements in the occupied West Bank. Although Mr. Trump has not committed to a Palestinian state, analysts said they anticipated that the plan will have to be built around the so-called two-state solution that has been the core of peacemaking efforts for years. ...

"'There's nothing new under the sun when it comes to Middle East peace,' said Philip Gordon, a White House Middle East coordinator under Mr. Obama. 'When you get into these details, that's when you come up against the strong objections of the two sides. If they don't want it to be dead on arrival, they may wind up with vague principles, but as we've seen, even vague principles are beyond what the parties are willing to embrace.'" http://nyti.ms/2zRyZJJ

****** **A message from Morgan Stanley:** A new industrial revolution: Quantum computing's advanced abilities could redefine business. Read more from Morgan Stanley. ******

CATCHING YOU UP ON TRUMP ABROAD ...

-- TRUMP TO VIETNAMESE PRESIDENT TRUONG TAN SANG ON SOUTH CHINA SEA DISPUTE, per pooler AFP's Jerome Cartillier: "If I can help mediate or arbitrate, please let me know (...) I am a very good mediator."

-- TRUMP ON PUTIN SAYING HE DID NOT MEDDLE IN U.S. ELECTIONS: "What I said there is that I believe he believes that, and that's very important for somebody to believe. I believe that he feels that he and Russia did not meddle in the election.

"As to whether I believe it or not, I'm with our agencies , especially as currently constituted with their leadership. I believe in our intel agencies, our intelligence agencies. I've worked with them very strongly. There weren't seventeen as was previously reported; there were actually four. ... Now, at the same time, I want to be able -- because I think it's very important -- to get along with Russia, to get along with China, to get along with Vietnam, to get along with lots of countries, because we have a lot of things we have to solve. And, frankly, Russia and China in particular can help us with the North Korea problem, which is one of our truly great problems.

"So I'm not looking to stand and start arguing with somebody when there's reporters all around and cameras recording and seeing our conversation. I think it was very obvious to everybody. I believe that President Putin really feels -- and he feels strongly -- that he did not meddle in our election. What he believes is what he believes. ...

"[I] feel that having Russia in a friendly posture, as opposed to always fighting with them, is an asset to the world and an asset to our country, not a liability. And, by the way, Hillary Clinton had the reset button. She wanted to get back together with Russia. She even spelled 'reset' wrong. That's how it started, and then it got worse. President Obama wanted to get along with Russia, but the chemistry wasn't there. Getting along with other nations is a good thing, not a bad thing -- believe me. It's a good thing, not a bad thing."

-- TAKING ADVANTAGE OF 280 CHARACTERS: @realDonaldTrump last night at 7:16 p.m.: "Met with President Putin of Russia who was at #APEC meetings. Good discussions on Syria. Hope for his help to solve, along with China the dangerous North Korea crisis. Progress being made." ... **at 7:18 p.m.:** "When will all the haters and fools out there realize that having a good relationship with Russia is a good thing, not a bad thing. There always playing politics - bad for our country. I want to solve North Korea, Syria, Ukraine, terrorism, and Russia can greatly help!" ...

... at 7:43 p.m.: "Does the Fake News Media remember when Crooked Hillary Clinton, as Secretary of State, was begging Russia to be our friend with the misspelled reset button? Obama tried also, but he had zero chemistry with Putin." ... **at 7:48 p.m.:** "Why would Kim Jong-un insult me by calling me 'old,' when I would NEVER call him 'short and fat?' Oh well, I try so hard to be his friend - and maybe someday that will happen!"

ON THE WORLD STAGE -- "Duterte to ask Trump to return historic spoils of war

taken in 1901," by CBS News' Jillian Hughes and Jackie Alemany: "When Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte sits down for his first face-to-face bilateral meeting with President Trump on Monday in Manila, he will come to the table with an unusual request. Duterte wants the United States to return war trophies seized more than 100 years ago: three historic church bells that were taken from the Philippine village of Balangiga after a bloody clash during the Philippine-American War." http://cbsn.ws/2i9pJWR

-- "How Saudi Arabia turned on Lebanon's Hariri," by Reuters' Samia Nakhoul, Laila Bassam and Tom Perry in Beirut: "Sources close to Hariri say Saudi Arabia has concluded that the prime minister -- a long-time Saudi ally and son of late prime minister Rafik al-Hariri, who was assassinated in 2005 -- had to go because he was unwilling to confront Hezbollah. Multiple Lebanese sources say Riyadh hopes to replace Saad Hariri with his older brother Bahaa as Lebanon's top Sunni politician. Bahaa is believed to be in Saudi Arabia and members of the Hariri family have been asked to travel there to pledge allegiance to him, but have refused." http://reut.rs/2AzVBuy

THE TRUMP LEGACY -- NYT A1, "Trump Is Rapidly Reshaping the Judiciary. Here's How," by Charlie Savage: "In the weeks before Donald J. Trump took office, lawyers joining his administration gathered at a law firm near the Capitol, where Donald F. McGahn II, the soon-to-be White House counsel, filled a white board with a secret battle plan to fill the federal appeals courts with young and deeply conservative judges. Mr. McGahn, instructed by Mr. Trump to maximize the opportunity to reshape the judiciary, mapped out potential nominees and a strategy, according to two people familiar with the effort: Start by filling vacancies on appeals courts with multiple openings and where Democratic senators up for re-election next year in states won by Mr. Trump - like Indiana, Michigan and Pennsylvania - could be pressured not to block his nominees.

"And to speed them through confirmation, avoid clogging the Senate with too many nominees for the district courts, where legal philosophy is less crucial. Nearly a year later, that plan is coming to fruition. Mr. Trump has already appointed eight appellate judges, the most this early in a presidency since Richard M. Nixon, and on Thursday, the Senate Judiciary Committee voted along party lines to send a ninth appellate nominee - Mr. Trump's deputy White House counsel, Gregory Katsas - to the floor." http://nyti.ms/2iRhuOv

--"Trump Nominee for Federal Judgeship Has Never Tried a Case," by NYT's Vivian Wang: "A 36-year-old lawyer who has never tried a case and who was unanimously deemed 'not qualified' by the American Bar Association has been approved for a lifetime federal district judgeship by the Senate Judiciary Committee. The lawyer, Brett Talley, is the fourth judicial nominee under President Trump to receive a 'not qualified' rating from the bar association and the second to receive the rating unanimously." http://nyti.ms/2yvdcmC

MISLEADING CONGRESS? -- "After new revelations, Sessions faces another

grilling on Russia contacts in Trump campaign," by L.A. Times' Joseph Tanfani: "For Atty. Gen. Jeff Sessions, questions about the Trump campaign and Russia have become a nagging headache that won't go away. Three times, he has appeared before his former colleagues in the Senate and answered questions about what he knew about contacts with Russians during the campaign. Three times, Sessions stumbled, issuing denials that later proved to be incomplete or wrong.

"On Tuesday, the nation's highest lawman will face another grilling on Capitol Hill, this time prompted by claims in court documents and congressional testimony that he was told of at least two aides' meetings with Russian officials - despite his claim last month that he was unaware of any such contacts. 'The facts appear to contradict your sworn testimony on several occasions,' all 17 Democrats on the House Judiciary Committee wrote to Sessions last week in advance of his appearance there." http://bit.ly/2hmzShP

-- "Lawmakers question whether key CIA nominee misled Congress," by AP's Deb Reichmann: "Two former CIA employees are accusing the Trump administration's choice for CIA chief watchdog of being less than candid when he told Congress he didn't know about any active whistleblower complaints against him. Members of the Senate Intelligence Committee asked Christopher Sharpley, the current acting inspector general who's in line for the permanent job, about complaints that he and other managers participated in retaliation against CIA workers who alerted congressional committees and other authorities about alleged misconduct. 'I'm unaware of any open investigations on me, the details of any complaints about me,' Sharpley testified at his confirmation hearing last month." http://bit.ly/2jkSHGo

AP in Berlin: **"A list of heartbreak: Newspaper tallies 33,293 dead migrants":** "The German paper Der Tagesspiegel has published a list of 33,293 people who it says died while trying to immigrate to Europe. The list is 46 pages long and covers the period from 1993 to May 29, 2017. The newspaper cites the victims' names, ages, countries of origin, circumstances, date of death and the source of information. Often, the names are not given because the dead were not identified." http://bit.ly/2zRXne3

SUNDAY BEST ...

-- JAKE TAPPER talks with **FORMER CIA DIRECTOR JOHN BRENNAN** on **CNN'S** "State of the Union": **TAPPER:** "What is your response, Mr. Brennan, to what President Trump said about Vladimir Putin and U.S. intelligence agencies?" **BRENNAN:** "Well, I think Mr. Trump knows that the intelligence agencies, specifically CIA, NSA and FBI, the ones that really have responsibility for counterintelligence and looking at what Russia does, it's very clear that the Russians interfered in the election. And it's still puzzling as to why Mr. Trump does not acknowledge that and embrace it, and also push back hard against Mr. Putin. The Russian threat to our democracy and our democratic foundations is real. And I think his continuing to not say very clearly and strongly that this is a national security problem, and to say to Mr. Putin, we know you did it, you would have to stop it, because there are going to be consequences if you don't."

-- CHRIS WALLACE talks with **HOUSE WAYS AND MEANS CHAIRMAN KEVIN BRADY (R-TEXAS)** on **FOX NEWS'** "Fox News Sunday" about whether the House will pass tax reform by Thanksgiving: **BRADY:** "I believe it will. I feel there's strong support for this. We continue to make improvements at every step of the way."

-- "Brady: House will not accept repeal of state, local tax deductions," by Zach Warmbrodt: http://politi.co/2AADcgO

-- JOHN DICKERSON talks with **TREASURY SECRETARY STEVEN MNUCHIN** on **CBS'S** "Face the Nation": **DICKERSON:** "Let me ask you about [lobbyists]. The president said he wanted to drain the swamp in Washington. What instruction has he given you, in putting this package together, to keep lobbyists' influence out of the process?" **MNUCHIN:** "Again, I'm not concerned about lobbyists. We've reached out to many, many trade groups to get lots of input, okay? Lots of people, lots of CEOs, have had input into this. But this is all about growth. And this is about an economic program that I've had the opportunity to work with the president since the campaign. And we're focused. We're so excited to get this done and to the President's desk in December." **DICKERSON:** "So no special instructions, though, about lobbyists, getting them out of this process." **MNUCHIN:** "I haven't had any lobbyists really involved with us. We've had trade groups that we've listened to input. But I'm not concerned about lobbyists at all."

Playbook Reads

PHOTO DU JOUR: Vice President Mike Pence cleans a portion of the wall at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial on Veterans Day on Nov. 11. | Alex Brandon/AP Photo

ALI WATKINS -- "Cold War Soviet technology studied in Cuba attacks": "U.S. intelligence officials are closely studying Cold War-era Soviet technology as they seek to determine whether an electronic weapon was used to disorient and injure 24 American officials in Cuba earlier this year. Two intelligence officials tell POLITICO they're confident that the attacks were conducted with an 'energy directed' or 'acoustic' device, possibly similar to one used by Soviet intelligence in Havana more than four decades ago, but remain unsure of its exact nature.

"That has officials combing classified files and even contacting retired intelligence officers for clues to a mystery that has triggered a diplomatic crisis less than three years after President Barack Obama restored diplomatic relations with Havana. 'We're trying to talk to guys as far back as the 1960s,' said one of the intelligence officials. The sweeping, government-wide search for answers - spearheaded publicly by the State Department - has pulled in expertise from intelligence agencies, science and weapons development offices and health officials. Still, answers remain elusive. 'It's baffled the entire community,' the intelligence official said." http://politi.co/2AyE31L

KOCH WATCH -- "Libertarian billionaire Charles Koch is making a big bet on foreign policy," by WaPo's Greg Jaffe: "A foundation overseen by billionaire industrialist Charles Koch is making major investments in foreign policy programs at elite American universities, including a soon-to-be-announced $3.7 million grant to Harvard University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. The latest grant ... is part of a larger effort to broaden the debate about an American foreign policy Koch and others at his foundation argue has become too militaristic, interventionist and expensive. It follows about $10 million in similar grants the Charles Koch Foundation has given in recent months to Notre Dame, Tufts University, Catholic University and the University of California at San Diego." http://wapo.st/2zzefFz

FOR YOUR RADAR -- "Woman says she was harassed at defense agency over child-care issues," by WaPo's Rachel Weiner: "A female defense agency employee said in court this month that she was isolated and harassed at the office after asking to work from home one day a week because she could not arrange child care. Her bosses at the Defense Security Service say she is simply unhappy she was not given special accommodation. A jury in federal court in Alexandria is expected to decide in the next week which side they believe. Patricia Burke's suit against the Defense Department is the rare employment discrimination case against the federal government to go to trial." http://wapo.st/2yVkowq

-- "At the SEC, Whistleblowers Blow Whistle on Watchdog," by WSJ's Jean Eaglesham: "The watchdog for the [SEC], who encourages staff at the top securities regulator to blow the whistle on misconduct and fraud, is himself the subject of complaints by several whistleblowers. Carl Hoecker, the SEC inspector general, is tasked with rooting out malpractice at the agency. His team investigates alleged misconduct by SEC officials, ranging from insider trading to expenses fraud. The office's website highlights protections for SEC employees who disclose evidence of waste, fraud or abuse.

"At least two employees working for Mr. Hoecker have filed complaints to a different federal whistleblower-protection agency, alleging that he and his senior staff retaliated against them for calling out misconduct within the inspector general's office, according to people familiar with the matter and documents reviewed by The Wall Street Journal. Raphael Kozolchyk, a spokesman for the SEC Office of Inspector General, said 'a number of the claims contain significant factual inaccuracies, while others are grossly misleading.' He added that the office does 'not comment on ongoing personnel matters.' Mr. Hoecker didn't respond to a request for comment." http://on.wsj.com/2yuCVvt

****** **A message from Morgan Stanley:** The next generation of supercomputers appears to be at an inflection point-promising speed and processing power that could redefine business and trigger a new industrial revolution. Read more. ******

MEDIAWATCH -- "Radhika Jones, a Times Books Editor, Said to Be Next Vanity Fair Editor," by NYT's Sydney Ember: "In a dramatic changing of the guard, Radhika

Jones, the editorial director of the books department at The New York Times and a former top editor at Time magazine, is expected to be named the next editor of Vanity Fair, according to two people with knowledge of the decision. Condé Nast, which publishes Vanity Fair, plans to make the announcement as soon as Monday. Ms. Jones, 44, will succeed the 68-year-old Graydon Carter, who said in September that he was stepping down from the glossy general-interest magazine after a 25-year run at its helm." http://nyti.ms/2zwKaGU

BONUS GREAT WEEKEND READS, curated by Daniel Lippman:

--"The Stockholder in the Sand," by William D. Cohan in March 2013 in Vanity Fair: "[T]he private origins-and exact size-of his massive fortune are the subject of continued debate between [Alwaleed] bin Talal and prominent media outlets. So what's the truth? And does one of the richest men on Bloomberg's Billionaire Index-a calorie-counting cell-phone addict who loves texting James Murdoch-really spend his free time throwing dwarves?" http://bit.ly/2jiEUjO ... ***2012 Business Insider profile by Nicholas Carlson*** http://read.bi/2yQDhkq

--"Donald Trump Movie Review - Orson Welles' 'Citizen Kane'" - From an interview Trump did with filmmaker Errol Morris for a project called "Movie Movie" -- ***3-min. video*** http://bit.ly/2yOLCFh

--"The Convert," by Abigail Pesta in Texas Monthly: "Tania Joya had been married to a jihadist from Texas for ten years, but she was tired of living like a nomad and unnerved by his increasingly extreme ideology. When he dragged their family to war-torn Syria, she knew it was time to get out." http://bit.ly/2jfXby6

--"In the Land of Vendettas That Go On Forever," by Amanda Petrusich in VQR: "In Northern Albania, vengeance is as likely a form of restitution as anything the criminal-justice system can offer." http://bit.ly/2mgl2Px

--"The Long, Bizarre Relationship Between Jann Wenner and Mick Jagger," by Joe Hagan in Vulture: http://bit.ly/2jg3eTc

--"Disneyland with the Death Penalty," by William Gibson in the April 1993 edition of Wired -- per Longform.org's description: "On the sanitized wonderland that is Singapore." http://bit.ly/2zysdVS

--"A Restaurant Ruined My Life," by Robert Maxwell in Toronto Life: "I was a foodie with a boring day job who figured he could run a restaurant. Then I encountered rats, endless red tape, crippling costs and debt-induced meltdowns, started popping sleeping pills, lost my house, and nearly sabotaged my marriage." http://bit.ly/2yOcPrs

--"Under the Banner of New York," by Zadie Smith in the N.Y. Review of Books: "We can often be found screaming at strangers in the street but we just as frequently pick them up off the floor. We are every variety of human. Some of us are dopers and

junkies. Some of us are preschool teachers and nuns. None of us deserve to be killed in the street. We are a multiplicity of humans in an elastic social arrangement that can be stretched in many directions. It's not broken yet." http://bit.ly/2yowji0

--"Inside Rodrigo Duterte's drug war - Part 1, the cycle of violence," by CBS News' Kylie Atwood: Hitman "Delo, 40, has two children under the age of 10. They do not know their father is a murderer. He worries most about getting killed and about his true work being revealed to his children. 'I do feel guilty,' he says. But he claims he can't get out, even though he would like to. 'If you try to get out, they might kill you,' he says. 'That it's my family who might be - I might get killed and they might get killed.'" http://cbsn.ws/2zGabS1

--"How to sell a country: the booming business of nation branding," by Samanth Subramanian in the Guardian: "These days, every place in the world wants to market its unique identity - and an industry has sprung up to help put them on the map." http://bit.ly/2iJFtPA

--"Meet The Riders Of The Sikh Motorcycle Club Of The Northeast," by Teresa Mathew in BuzzFeed: "Riding their bikes together offers this group of Sikhs an all-American way to celebrate their faith, in a country where it often makes them targets." http://bzfd.it/2hrVWLQ

--"Distaff Meeting: When sisterhood flowered in Detroit," by the Weekly Standard's Alice Lloyd in Detroit: "It is Rose McGowan, though, who steals the show. With an otherworldly cadence and a militant message, the reformed Hollywood vamp commands her troops: 'We are planet women, and you will hear us roar!'" http://tws.io/2hkJU3h

--"Frequent Gunfire," by John Banville in The Nation -- per ALDaily.com's description: "The fake machismo, the boozing, the braggadocio -- Hemingway kept up the facade of the hairy-chested artist for as long as he was able. But who was he really?" http://bit.ly/2jiDBkP

--"Could Rome Have Had an Industrial Revolution?" by Mark Koyama on Medium: http://bit.ly/2yO4jZI

--"Mail-Order CRISPR Kits Allow Absolutely Anyone to Hack DNA," by Annie Sneed in Scientific American -- per The Browser's description: "You can buy a CRISPR kit by mail order for $130 and do some serious genetic engineering in the privacy of your own home. The starter pack shows you how to modify e coli. The rest is up to you. Are we handing rogue scientists the means to flood the world with mutant life-forms?" http://bit.ly/2ArOjsH

-- "Teen Girl Posed For 8 Years As Married Man To Write About Baseball And Harass Women," by Lindsey Adler in Deadspin: http://bit.ly/2hrKRKK

Playbookers

[redacted]

http://bit.ly/2yUag7i ...

... Michael Jordan sitting at a table by the bar at Bourbon Steak last night before getting dinner at the restaurant ... Ron Kaufman yesterday at Ophelia's Fish House ... Sens. Rob Portman (R-Ohio) and Jack Reed (D-R.I.) received the Panetta Institute for Public Policy's bipartisan Lincoln-Jefferson award in Pebble Beach, California.

SPOTTED yesterday at Weekly Standard editor Steve Hayes' third annual chili cook-off at his family's house in Davidsonville, Maryland: Bill Kristol, Peter and Kari Boyer, Matt Labash, Jonathan and Betsy Fischer Martin, Andy Ferguson, Mike Warren, Jonathan and Shannon Last, John and Lauren McCormack, Richard Starr, Ethan Epstein, Adam Keiper, Alice Lloyd, Jenna Lifhits, Vic Matus, Jim Swift.

WEEKEND WEDDINGS -- Kris Anderson, a partner at Prospect Strategic Communications, former RNC research director and a Romney and Huntsman alum, on Saturday married **Natalie Ethridge,** who works for the National Alliance for Public Charter Schools. Pool report: The couple "were married in a beautiful sunset ceremony in Cabo on Saturday before family and friends. As one of the GOP's most prolific oppo researchers, the welcome party included a LexisNexis challenge. Kris and Natalie first met on the Schwarzenegger campaign in 2006 and started dating in 2008. After nearly a decade together, they chose the very apt #FoolsRushIn hashtag to mark the occasion." ***Pic by Eric Draper/Eric Draper Photography*** http://bit.ly/2zAyeUb

SPOTTED: Webber Steinhoff, Ed Murphy, Matt David, Kirsten Kukowski, Jahan Wilcox, Tim Miller (who wore an "I'm with her" shirt) and Tyler Jameson, Sarah Pompei, Joe Pounder, Alex Angel, Francis Brennan, Matt Gorman, Andy Hemming, Jim Bognet, John Wittman and Cait Meisenheimer, Drew Florio and Colleen McGowan, Katie Boyd, Ted Kwong, Tom Merwin, Peter Li, Darrel and Jessica Ng, Tim and Sarah Killeen, Webb Hubbell, Tim Killeen, Fran Brennan, Mason and Chelsea Harrison, Amanda Henneberg, Byron Koay.

--Creigh Behnke, deputy finance director at the NRSC and NRCC alum, on Saturday married **Michael Senich,** a senior associate at Majority Strategies, at The Broadmoor in Colorado Springs, Colo. "The couple met at the NRCC when Creigh worked in the Finance Department and Michael worked for the political office of Speaker of the House John Boehner." ***Pic*** http://bit.ly/2iP4BV7

SPOTTED: Tommy Andrews, Katie Behnke, Megan Cummings, Leigh Tenewitz, Lucy Noell Croxton, Megan Becker, Krista Madaio, Chris Hansen, Tom Whatman, Grant Gardner, Seton Gardner, Michael Beach, Bryan Watkins, Lauren Toomey, Josh Penry,

Kristin Strohm, Michael Calvo, Jordan Lieberman, Missy Lieberman and Marcus Rose.

--Adam Kennedy, the new White House research director and an RNC alum, tied the knot with health care consultant **Kim Wallace** at Roofer's Union in Adams Morgan. The two are college sweethearts. ***Pic*** http://bit.ly/2hnMDJf **SPOTTED:** White House aides Raj Shah, Zach Parkinson, and Tyler Ross and RNC's Scott Parker and Eric Schulze.

--Julia Krieger, deputy comms director for Sen. Heidi Heitkamp (D-N.D.), and **Evan Vanderveer,** co-founder of Vanshap Capital, had a wedding reception last night at the Barnes Foundation in Philadelphia. The couple previously got married in August in Santorini in a private ceremony. ***Pic*** http://bit.ly/2ADHISc

BIRTHWEEK (was yesterday): Edelman's Greg Romano and Michael Boisjolie

BIRTHDAY OF THE DAY: Jeremy Skule, SVP and chief marketing officer at Nasdaq and alum of MF Global and Fleishman-Hillard. **What he's reading these days:** "'American Radical: Inside the World of an Undercover Muslim FBI Agent,' by Tamer Elnoury with Kevin Maurer. I'm fascinated by the work of our intelligence community and my brother is my hero and also in the FBI." **Read his Playbook Plus Q&A:** http://politi.co/2mjookr

BIRTHDAYS: Dr. Elena Allbritton ... Jeff Zients ... Tyrone Gayle, press secretary for Sen. Kamala Harris (D-Calif.), is 3-0 ... Sen. Jack Reed (D-R.I.) is 68 ... Eurasia Group president Ian Bremmer is 48 ... USA Today's Nancy Trejos ... former Transportation Sec. Norm Mineta is 86 ... Stephanie Kotuby and Rhana Natour of "PBS NewsHour" (h/t Nick Massella) ... Facebook's Katie Harbath ... Rex Elsass ... Katie Stuntz ... Ryan Coyne, founder and CEO of Olympic Media, is 3-0 ... Mark SooHoo of Burson-Marsteller ... Politico's Bennett Richardson ... Jenn Ridder ... Luca Spinelli ... ThinkProgress' Kira Lerner ... Leo DiBenigno ... Joe Johnston ... Dave Weinberg ... Takaaki Mizuno is 59 ... Kevin Gundersen, director of gov't relations at Huntsman, is 36 ... David Lawrence ... Alex Brown ... Michelle Perry ... Kamal Marell ... Jay Lumpkins ... Amber Cottle ... Vinny Minchillo ... Harlan Hill ...

... Ross Baird, executive director at Village Capital and author of the new book "The Innovation Blind Spot" ... RNC's Steve Guest ... Jessica Kahanek ... Maria Cardona, principal at Dewey Square Group ... Scott Beauchamp ... Josh Britton ... Alex Griswold of the Free Beacon ... Olivia Lange, a student at Stanford's GSB ... Erica Sackin, director of political comms at Planned Parenthood ... Laura Mandy Mszar ... Columbia history professor Carol Gluck ... Neal Shusterman is 55 ... Naomi Wolf is 55 ... Nina Brosh ... Jake Orta ... Crozer Connor ... Frank Mazza ... former Rep. Diane Watson (D-Calif.) is 84 ... Gina Hill ... Sheila O'Connell ... Mica Strother ... Pam Oatis (h/ts Teresa Vilmain)

****** **A message from Morgan Stanley:** The next generation of supercomputers appears to be at an inflection point-promising speed and processing power that could redefine business and trigger a new industrial revolution. Quantum computing's

advanced abilities could open the door to dramatic innovation in a variety of industries. Chemical manufacturers and pharmaceutical companies, for example, could simulate the chain of chemical reactions needed to design new and far more complex compounds and materials. And just as past industrial revolutions created many of the sectors that form the core of today's global economy, quantum computing could give rise to new companies and sectors not yet imagined. Read more. ******

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Subject: Playbook Power Briefing: COMEY: 'I was honestly concerned that [Trump] might lie,' hopes that there are tapes -- RYAN defends POTUS: 'The president's new at this' -- TRUMP silent on testimony -- HIS MOOD as he watched Comey: 'light'

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06/08/2017 01:51 PM EDT

By ANNA PALMER (anna@politico.com; @apalmerdc), JAKE SHERMAN (sherman@politico.com; @JakeSherman), DANIEL LIPPMAN (daniel@politico.com; @dlippman), ZACH MONTELLARO (zmontellaro@politico.com; @ZachMontellaro)

QUICK TAKEAWAYS -- No, **PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP** is not under investigation. **PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP'** s May 12th tweet -- "James Comey better hope that there are no 'tapes' of our conversations before he starts leaking to the press!" -- prompted him to leak information about an Oval Office conversation, which he hoped would cause the appointment of a special counsel. Comey said he thought it was a "significant fact" that the president kicked everyone out of the Oval Office to speak to him. **AND** he said there should be "no fuzz" -- Russians intervened in the election.

NO ONE really challenged Jim Comey's testimony or recollection of events.

WHY COMEY WROTE MEMOS -- "I WAS HONESTLY CONCERNED THAT [TRUMP] MIGHT LIE ..."

-- ON THE RUSSIAN INTERFERENCE IN U.S. ELECTIONS -- "They'll be back ... They're going to come for whatever party they chose to work on behalf of ... They're about their own advantage."

Good Thursday afternoon. JAMES COMEY has finally spoken.

THE BIG MOMENTS ...

-- COMEY TO HIS FORMER FBI COLLEAGUES: "The administration then chose to defame me and more importantly the FBI by saying that the organization was in disarray, that it was poorly led, that the workforce had lost confidence in its leader. Those were lies, plain and simple. And I am so sorry that the FBI workforce had to hear them, and I'm so sorry that the American people were told them."

-- ON WHY HE WAS FIRED: "I guess I don't know for sure. I believe -- I take the president at his word, that I was fired because of the Russia investigation. Something about the way I was conducting it, the president felt created pressure on him they wanted to relieve. Again, I didn't know that at the time. I watched his interview. I read the press accounts of his conversations. I take him at his word there. Now look, I could be wrong. Maybe he's saying something that's not true. But I take him at his word, at

least based on what I know now."

-- **ON TAPES:** "Look, I've seen the tweet about tapes. Lordy, I hope there are tapes. I remember saying, 'I agree he is a good guy,' as a way of saying, I'm not agreeing with what you asked me to do."

-- COMEY ON RUSSIAN INTERFERENCE: "There should be no fuzz on this whatsoever. The Russians interfered in our election during the 2016 cycle. They did it with purpose. They did it with sophistication. They did it with overwhelming technical efforts. It was an active measures campaign driven from the top of that government. There is no fuzz on that. ... That's about as unfake as you can possibly get."

-- ON THE FEB. 14 ONE-ON-ONE WITH TRUMP IN THE OVAL: "My impression was something big is about to happen. I need to remember every single word that is spoken. And again, I could be wrong, but I'm 56 years old, I've been, seen a few things, my sense was the attorney general knew he shouldn't be leaving which was why he was lingering and I don't know Mr. Kushner well but I think he picked up on the same thing, so I knew something was about to happen that I needed to pay very close attention to."

-- ON HOW CONTENTS OF A MEMO BECAME PUBLIC: "I asked -- the president tweeted on Friday after I got fired that I better hope there's not tapes. I woke up in the middle of the night on Monday night because it didn't dawn on me originally, that there might be corroboration for our conversation. There might be a tape. My judgement was, I need to get that out into the public square. I asked a friend of mine to share the content of the memo with a reporter. Didn't do it myself for a variety of reasons. I asked him to because I thought that might prompt the appointment of a special counsel. I asked a close friend to do it." He said it was not Benjamin Wittes, the editor in chief of Lawfare, but it was a "close friend who is a professor at Columbia law school."

-- ON WHY HE DIDN'T GIVE THE MEMO TO THE MEDIA HIMSELF: "Because I was weary [of] the media [that] was camping at the end of my driveway at that point. I was actually going out of town with my wife to hide. I worried it would be feeding seagulls at the beach, if it was I who gave it to the media."

-- ON CLINTON'S EMAILS: The former FBI director said he did not regret his handling of the investigation into Hillary Clinton's private email server: "It caused a whole lot of personal pain for me but as I look back, given what I knew at the time and even what I've learned since, I think it was the best way to try to protect the justice institution, including the FBI." He also said that the meeting between Attorney General Loretta Lynch and former President Bill Clinton on an airport tarmac was the "conclusive" reason he went public with the investigation. He also said that Lynch at one point "directed me not to call it an investigation, but instead to call it a matter, which confused me and concerned me."

-- ON IF HE'D BE FIRED IF CLINTON WAS PRESIDENT: "That's a great question. I don't know. I don't know. ... I might have been. I don't know. Look, I've said before, that

was an extraordinarily difficult and painful time. I think I did what I had to do. I knew it was going to be very bad for me personally. And the consequence of that might have been if Hillary Clinton was elected I might have been terminated. I don't know. I really don't."

ASKED IF DONALD TRUMP COLLUDED WITH RUSSIA, Comey said he should not answer that in an open setting.

DON JR. WEIGHS IN -- President Trump's son Donald Trump Jr. was active on Twitter (@DonaldJTrumpJr) during the hearing, rebutting the negative parts of Comey's testimony. One sampling on Trump's conversations with Comey over Flynn: "Flynn stuff is BS in context 2 guys talking about a guy they both know well. I hear 'I hope nothing happens but you have to do your job' ... very far from any kind of coercion or influence and certainly not obstruction! ... Knowing my father for 39 years when he 'orders or tells' you to do something there is no ambiguity, you will know exactly what he means ... Hoping and telling are two very different things, you would think that a guy like Comey would know that. #givemeabreak"

BAD DAY for former Attorney General Loretta Lynch, who, according to Comey, requested that he not call the Clinton investigation, well, an investigation.

THE LOYAL OPPOSITION -- The DNC emailed Democratic operatives Thursday morning who may be going on TV or doing press about Comey to invite them to a "post-hearing top talkers" call at 1:30 p.m.

BACKING POTUS -- "Ryan defends Trump on Comey: 'The president's new at this,'" by Rachael Bade: "Speaker Paul Ryan on Thursday defended President Donald Trump's communications with ex-FBI director James Comey, saying Trump wasn't "steeped in the long-running protocols" of how to interact with law enforcement. 'The president's new at this,' Ryan said at a news conference. 'He's new at government.'

"The Wisconsin Republican also expressed sympathy for Trump's frustration with the Russia investigation, noting that Comey testified before the Senate Intelligence Committee that Trump was not the subject of the probe. 'I think the American people now know why he was frustrated.'" http://politi.co/2sHx8jK

HOW TRUMP REACTED -- "Aide: Trump's mood 'light' as Comey testimony unfolds," y Tara Palmeri: "President Donald Trump decided the night before former FBI director James Comey's Senate testimony that he would not live-tweet his rebuttal, according to two White House officials. 'Why would I?' Trump told aides on Wednesday night, according to a senior White House official.

"Trump watched the hearings from the White House dining room surrounded by aides and lawyers who went in and out of the room as the hearing went on. A senior aide described Trump's mood during the hearing as 'light.'" http://politi.co/2sHyR8l

ALL QUIET FROM THE PRESIDENT -- Trump did not address the testimony during his speech at the Faith and Freedom Coalition conference. From our colleague Eliana Johnson (@elianayjohnson), who was on the scene: "Trump's speech here at Faith and Freedom Coalition conference feels a world removed from Capitol Hill. Not a single mention of Comey." He also did not tweet.

-- @costareports: "WH sources add that Trump was kept busy this morning w/ Mattis, Tillerson, McMaster convos + prep for Faith & Freedom lunchtime speech."

-- THE VICE PRESIDENT also did not address Comey's testimony during remarks in the Indian Treaty Room.

FROM THE WHITE HOUSE -- "Sarah Sanders: 'The president is not a liar,'" by Tara Palmeri: "White House deputy press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders said 'the president is not a liar' after former FBI director James Comey blasted the White House for telling 'lies, plain and simple' about the circumstances surrounding his firing last month. 'No, I can definitively say the president is not a liar,' Sanders told reporters at the White House during an off-camera briefing Thursday. 'It's frankly insulting that that question would be asked.'" ... At the White House, Sanders also said the president still has confidence in his Cabinet members." http://politi.co/2s87FCM

FOR YOUR RADAR -- @kylegriffin1: "Brian Williams on @MSNBC says a source tells him and @NicolleDWallace they're not sure Trump knew there were Americans stationed in Qatar."

FIRST IN PLAYBOOK: THE OTHER THING HAPPENING TODAY -- THE PRESIDENT and **VICE PRESIDENT** are hosting eight governors and roughly 30 government and private-sector leaders to discuss infrastructure. **WHO IS ATTENDING: GOVS.:** Kay Ivey of Alabama, Doug Ducey of Arizona, Rick Scott of Florida, Eric Holcomb of Indiana, Sam Brownback of Kansas, Phil Bryant of Mississippi, Doug Burgum of North Dakota and Chris Sununu of New Hampshire. **MAYORS:** Lenny Curry (Jacksonville, Florida), Steve Hogan (Aurora, Colorado), Mick Cornett (Oklahoma City), Nate Robinson (Fayetteville, North Carolina), Sheldon Day (Thomasville, Alabama), Acquanetta Warren (Fontana, California), Richard Berry (Albuquerque), Lydia Mihalik (Findlay, Ohio) and Andrew Ginther (Columbus, Ohio).

OTHER LEADERS: Bucks County, Pennsylvania Commissioner Rob Loughery; Leon County, Florida Commissioner Bryan Desloge; Waukesha County, Wisconsin Executive Paul Farrow; Macomb County, Michigan Public Works Commissioner Candice Miller; DeKalb County, Georgia Vice Chairman Nancy Jester; Jefferson County, Colorado Commissioner Libby Szabo; Mandan, Hidatsa and Arikara Nation Tribe Vice Chairman Randy Phelan; Southern Ute Tribe, Colorado Councilman Kevin Frost; Louisiana Agriculture Commissioner Mike Strain; South Carolina Agriculture Commissioner Hugh Weathers, Springfield, Massachusetts Public Works Director Christopher Cignoli.

-- THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF MANUFACTURERS' executive committee is in

town this week and meeting with Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) to talk about the chamber's legislative agenda. Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin will discuss tax reform with the group. Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross joined a reception Wednesday night, where he talked about the future of trade deals, trade enforcement and the upcoming report on regulations impacting the manufacturing sector.

ROCK AND A HARD PLACE -- "Paul Ryan's debt ceiling conundrum," by Rachael Bade: "The House GOP conference -- from Freedom Caucus hardliners to mainstream Republicans allied with leadership -- are balking at the Trump administration's request for a 'clean' debt ceiling hike without spending cuts. The disagreement puts Ryan in an awkward situation of having to choose between his conference's desires and those of the White House. GOP insiders concede it could even force the Wisconsin Republican to, for the first time, violate the so-called Hastert rule, an unofficial GOP understanding that bills should be supported by a 'majority of the majority.' ...

"Relying on Democrats to carry major fiscal legislation has been common in recent years. But it ultimately helped drive out ex-Speaker John Boehner (R-Ohio) and would be problematic for Ryan in the eyes of the conference. One Republican close with leadership told POLITICO 'Ryan is going to be in trouble if the White House makes him do this.' A senior House Republican staffer likewise said leaders - and the White House - will 'get completely crushed by not just angry members but the outside groups will go crazy.'" http://politi.co/2s7EdwH

AL GORE ON CLIMATE CHANGE -- The former Veep sat for interview with Nick Haramis for Interview Magazine: "There are people who say, 'God is in complete control of everything that happens, and if the earth is getting warmer, then maybe god intends that.' well, no. God intends for us to take responsibility for how we treat God's creation." http://bit.ly/2r8QVGF

CONGRESSMAN PENCE, PART II? -- "Is Vice President Mike Pence's brother considering a run for Congress?," by the Indianapolis Star's Tony Cook and Kaitlin Lange: "Greg Pence, the vice president's older sibling, isn't ruling it out and a source close to the Pence family said this week that a group of Republican donors is encouraging him to run for the seat once held by his brother.

"Greg Pence, who once ran the family's Kiel Bros. Oil Co. gas station and convenience store business, has been a close confidant to the vice president, frequently traveling with him during last year's presidential campaign. And Greg Pence recently took his first formal step into the political arena earlier this year when he became statewide finance chairman for U.S. Rep. Luke Messer, who is expected to run for Indiana's U.S. Senate seat in 2018. That would leave Indiana's predominately Republican 6th District House seat vacant. Stretching from Muncie to Madison, it's the same district Mike Pence represented for 12 years and one where he continues to enjoy wide support." http://indy.st/2s7Tz4A

MEDIAWATCH -- ASHLEY PARKER has been named a contributing editor at Glamour,

covering Washington, D.C. and politics. Ashley, who has contributed to Glamour since 2015, is currently a White House reporter at WaPo (where she will remain) and was at NYT before that. http://politi.co/2sHtPsN

DOWN IN GEORGIA -- "Georgia House candidates debate in Comey's shadow," by Elena Schneider: "President Donald Trump and former FBI Director James Comey loomed large over the second debate here between Republican Karen Handel and Democrat Jon Ossoff in their closely watched race for a Georgia congressional seat.

"Ossoff and Handel debated Thursday morning for the second time in three days - this time in a meeting sponsored by an Atlanta public radio station that was also streamed online - mostly sparring over health care, taxes and foreign policy. But with the debate beginning just an hour before Comey appeared on Capitol Hill, both candidates were pressed on Comey's advance testimony, which was released on Wednesday. Both candidates deflected and said the investigations should continue." http://politi.co/2s8lelE

-- "Ossoff raised $15M in last two months," by Elena http://politi.co/2sHtM09

COMING ATTRACTIONS -- WATERGATE REUNION -- The remaining staff of the Senate Watergate "Select Committee" are reconvening in Washington on June 17 for panel discussions at the Watergate hotel moderated by journalist Lesley Stahl. They will be joined by former Sen. Lowell Weicker (R-Conn.). The event has been organized by former Committee staffers Gordon Freedman and Elisabeth DeMarse. Alex Slater and Clyde Group are promoting.

THE AMERICAN FUTURE FUND is today announcing a letter with 10 other conservative groups to Speaker Ryan to oppose legislation now before the House which would impose caps on medical malpractice awards. The vote is expected next week. They say in the letter that the bill "advances the disturbing trend toward the 'federalization' of state tort law that is contrary to constitutional principles and represents an undue restriction on freedom." *The letter* http://politi.co/2rYKmdL

WELCOME TO THE WORLD - WSJ management reporter **Rachel Feintzeig** and **Dr. David Bennett,** a nephrologist in Bridgeport, Connecticut, post on Instagram: "Welcome to the world, Tuck. We are so happy you're here. //Theodore (Tuck) Feintzeig Bennett - June 7, 2017 - 2:46 a.m. - 7 lbs, 5 oz//". *Instapic* http://bit.ly/2sWYemc

OUT AND ABOUT -- Sen. Tom Cotton (R-Ark.) was the special guest at a reception last night at the American Beverage Association in honor of Paul Mango, a Republican candidate for Governor of Pennsylvania. **SPOTTED:** Susan Neely, Jim Nicholson, David Urban, Lisa Gable, Steve Hart, Rep. Lloyd Smucker (R-Pa.), Susan Nelson, Larry Rouvelas.

HIGH TIMES -- Fenton CEO **Michael Huttner** is launching Powerplant Strategies, a Denver-based PR and public affairs firm focused on the marijuana industry. Others

joining the firm include: Alex Howe in Los Angeles, Ellen Mellody, in Philadelphia and New York and Leland Radovanovic in New York.

SPOTTED: Ernest Moniz on the 7:30 a.m. shuttle from DCA-BOS in first class ... At the Four Seasons this morning, at separate tables: Linda Douglass and Melissa Moss, Heather Podesta, Alan Fleischmann and TJ Ducklo, Evan Ryan, Jonathan Swan.

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EHS Federal Regulatory Alert

June 06, 2017 - Number 107

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Summaries

AIR
California SIP/South Coast AQMD
AIR

Proposed rule of the EPA amends regulations under 40 CFR 52 to approve revisions to the South Coast Air Quality Management District portion of the California SIP regarding nitrogen oxide (NOx) emissions from facilities that emit four or more tons per year of NOx or sulfur oxides (SOx). The rule approves revisions to the district's Regional Clean Air Incentives Market (RECLAIM) program that lower the NOx emission cap, allow electric generating facilities to exit RECLAIM, add provisions regarding facility shutdowns, and create a regional new source review holding account for existing electricity generating facilities constructed after 1993. Revisions regarding reasonable available control technology will be evaluated in a separate proposed rule. Comments are due July 6, 2017. Contact: Nicole Law; EPA Region 9; 415-947-4126; law.nicole@epa.gov

82 FR 25996 (06/06/2017)

Regulatory Update

AIR
Colorado SIP/2010 SO2 NAAQS, 2012 PM-2.5 NAAQS
AIR

Proposed rule of the EPA amends regulations under 40 CFR 52 to approve portions of revisions to the Colorado SIP regarding infrastructure requirements for the 2010 sulfur dioxide (SO2) and 2012 fine particulate matter (PM-2.5) NAAQS. The EPA is taking no action on portions of the state's SIP submittal concerning interstate transport prongs 1 and 2 for the 2010 SO2 and 2012 PM-2.5 NAAQS. Comments are due July 6, 2017. Contact: Abby Fulton; EPA Region 8, Air Programs Branch; 303-312-6563; fulton.abby@epa.gov

82 FR 25999 (06/06/2017)

Regulatory Update

AIR
Connecticut SIP/Single-Source Orders
AIR

Final rule of the EPA corrects a May 1, 2017, direct final rule (82 FR 20262) that amended regulations under 40 CFR 52.370 and 52.385 to approve revisions to the Connecticut SIP regarding single-source orders. The revisions establish volatile organic compound reasonably available control technology requirements for Mallace Industries in Clinton and Hamilton Sundstrand in Windsor Locks. The revisions also remove previously approved single-source orders for Pfizer Global Manufacturing, Coats North America, Uniroyal Chemical Co., Watson Laboratories, Pratt & Whitney Aircraft, Dow Chemical and Sikorsky Aircraft. The current action corrects the amendatory instructions for 40 CFR 52.370. The rule is effective June 30, 2017. Contact: Bob McConnell; EPA Region 1, Air Programs Branch; 617-918-1046; mcconnell.robert@epa.gov

82 FR 25969 (06/06/2017)

Regulatory Update

AIR
Hazardous Air Pollutants Petitions/N-Propyl Bromide
AIR

Notice of the EPA announces an additional extension of the comment period for a Jan. 9, 2017, notice (82 FR 2354) regarding the draft rationale for granting petitions requesting amendments under 40 CFR 63 to add the chemical n-propyl bromide to the list of hazardous air pollutants (HAP) in Clean Air Act Section 112(b)(1). The petitions (80 FR 6676; 02/06/2015) were filed by the Halogenated Solvent Industry Alliance and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. Comments now are due Oct. 1, 2017. Contact: Elineth Torres; EPA, Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards; 919-541-4347; torres.elineth@epa.gov

82 FR 26091 (06/06/2017)

Regulatory Update

AIR
Idaho, Utah/Logan PM-2.5 Nonattainment Area Extension of Attainment Dates
AIR

Proposed rule of the EPA amends regulations under 40 CFR 52 to grant two, one-year extensions to the moderate attainment date for the Logan, Utah-Idaho, 2006 24-hour fine particulate matter (PM-2.5) NAAQS nonattainment area. In response to requests from Idaho and Utah, the rule extends the attainment date from Dec. 31, 2015, to Dec. 31, 2016, and then to Dec. 31, 2017. The rule also provides that the nonattainment area will remain a moderate PM-2.5 area, with a moderate area attainment date of Dec. 31, 2017. In addition, the rule specifies that Idaho and Utah will not have to submit additional planning requirements for serious PM-2.5 nonattainment areas unless there is a failure to attain the moderate standard by the extended date and the area is reclassified to a serious nonattainment area. The EPA will make a determination regarding attainment within six months of the applicable attainment date. Comments are due July 6, 2017. Contact: Crystal Ostigaard; EPA Region 8; 303-312-6602; ostigaard.crystal@epa.gov

82 FR 25992 (06/06/2017)

Regulatory Update

AIR
Oregon/Oakridge-Westfir 2006 PM-2.5 NAAQS Maintenance Plan
AIR

Notice of the EPA announces a finding that the motor vehicle emissions budgets in the Oregon SIP concerning the Oakridge-Westfir 2006 particulate matter (PM-2.5) NAAQS maintenance plan are adequate for transportation conformity purposes. The notice also specifies that the area must use the budgets for future conformity determinations. The finding is effective June 21, 2017. Contact: Karl Pepple; EPA Region 10; 206-553-1778; pepple.karl@epa.gov

82 FR 26090 (06/06/2017)

Regulatory Update

AIR
PSD Final Determinations
AIR

Notice of the EPA announces the issuance of four prevention of significant deterioration of air quality (PSD) final determinations under 40 CFR 52.21 issued between Oct. 2, 2015, and April 11, 2017. The notice specifies that the EPA Region 2 office issued one final agency action and the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection issued three final agency actions. Petitions for judicial review are due Aug. 7, 2017. Contact: Frank Jon; EPA Region 2, Air Programs Branch; 212-637-4085

82 FR 26101 (06/06/2017)

Regulatory Update

AIR
SAB Risk and Technology Review Screening Methods Panel Meeting
AIR

Notice of the EPA announces a meeting of the Science Advisory Board Risk and Technology Review Methods Panel to peer review the draft report on screening methodologies to support risk and technology reviews. The report is a review of the methods for conducting risk and technology review assessments that evaluate the effects of industrial emissions of hazardous air pollutants on public health and the environment. The meeting is scheduled for June 29-30, 2017, in Arlington, Va. Comments are due June 23, 2017. Contact: Bryan Bloomer; EPA; 202-564-4222; bloomer.bryan@epa.gov

82 FR 26100 (06/06/2017)

Regulatory Update

AIR
Solid Waste Incinerator Negative Declarations/EPA Region 1
AIR

Direct final rule of the EPA amends regulations under 40 CFR 62.7325, 62.7455, 62.9825, 62.9990 and 62.11480 and adopts regulations under 40 CFR 62.1750 to approve negative declarations for commercial and industrial solid waste incinerators in Connecticut, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont; approve negative declarations for hospital/medical/infectious waste incinerators in Rhode Island; and revise the state plan for existing large and small municipal waste combustors in New Hampshire. The negative declarations certify that there are no designated facilities subject to emissions guidelines currently operating in these states. The rule is effective Aug. 7, 2017, unless adverse comments are received by July 6, 2017. Contact: Patrick Bird; EPA Region 1; 617-918-1287; bird.patrick@epa.gov

82 FR 25969 (06/06/2017)

Regulatory Update

AIR
Solid Waste Incinerator Negative Declarations/EPA Region 1
AIR

Proposed rule of the EPA amends regulations under 40 CFR 62.7325, 62.7455, 62.9825, 62.9990 and 62.11480 and adopts regulations under 40 CFR 62.1750 to approve negative declarations for commercial and industrial solid waste incinerators in Connecticut, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont; approve negative declarations for hospital/medical/infectious waste incinerators in Rhode Island; and revise the state plan for existing large and small municipal waste combustors in New Hampshire. The negative declarations certify that there are no designated facilities subject to emissions guidelines currently operating in these states. A concurrent direct final rule adopts the revisions, effective Aug. 7, 2017. Comments are due July 6, 2017. Contact: Patrick Bird; EPA Region 1; 617-918-1287; bird.patrick@epa.gov

82 FR 26016 (06/06/2017)

Regulatory Update

AIR
South Dakota SIP/Infrastructure Requirements
AIR

Proposed rule of the EPA amends regulations under 40 CFR 52 to approve portions of revisions to the South Dakota SIP concerning infrastructure requirements for the 2010 sulfur dioxide (SO2) and 2012 fine particulate matter (PM-2.5) NAAQS. The rule takes no action on revisions regarding 2010 SO2 or 2012 PM-2.5 NAAQS (prongs 1 and 2), which will be addressed in a separate action. Comments are due July 6, 2017. Contact: Abby Fulton; EPA Region 8, Air Program; 303-312-6563; fulton.abby@epa.gov

82 FR 26007 (06/06/2017)

Regulatory Update

AIR

Texas SIP/Houston-Galveston-Brazoria Ozone Nonattainment Area

AIR

Notice of the EPA announces a finding that the 2017 motor vehicle emissions budgets in the Houston-Galveston-Brazoria, Texas, reasonable further progress SIP revision for the 2008 eight-hour ozone NAAQS are adequate for transportation conformity purposes. The notice also specifies that the area must use the budgets for future conformity determinations. The finding is effective June 21, 2017. Contact: Jeffrey Riley; EPA Region 6; 214-665-8542; Riley.Jeffrey@epa.gov

82 FR 26091 (06/06/2017)

Regulatory Update

AIR

Texas/Clean Air Act Consent Decree

AIR

Notice of the Department of Justice announces a proposed consent decree in United States v. Alon USA LP, (Case No.1:17-cv-00087), lodged on May 30, 2017, with the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Texas, Abilene Division. The consent decree resolves Clean Air Act claims against the defendant regarding emissions of benzene and volatile organic compounds at its petroleum refinery in Big Spring, Texas. The consent decree also addresses emissions from refinery devices, including heaters and boilers, flares, and a fluidized catalytic cracking unit. The consent decree requires the defendant to pay a civil penalty of $456,250 and to perform a supplemental environmental project to reduce emissions of nitrogen oxides. Comments are due July 6, 2017. Contact: DOJ, Environment and Natural Resources Division; 202-514-2701

82 FR 26119 (06/06/2017)

Regulatory Update

AIR

Utah/McElmo Creek Unit Oil Production Facility Permit

AIR

Notice of the EPA announces issuance of a final permit decision to Resolute Natural Resources Co. to amend the prevention of significant deterioration permit (No. NU 05-01) for the McElmo Creek Unit Oil Production Facility on the Navajo Nation Indian Reservation near Aneth, Utah. The amendments incorporate pollution limits, terms, and conditions for the already existing main flare, including best available control technology emission limitations for nitrogen oxides, carbon monoxide, sulfur dioxide, and volatile organic compounds. The amendments also remove and update other applicable requirements to reflect equipment that has been shut down and removed from the site. The permit is effective Nov. 30, 2016. Petitions for judicial review are due Aug. 7, 2017. Contact: Shaheerah Kelly; EPA Region 9, Air Division; 415-947-4156; kelly.shaheerah@epa.gov

82 FR 26096 (06/06/2017)

Regulatory Update

ENDANGERED SPECIES
California/Marine Mammals Incidental Take
ENDANGERED SPECIES

Notice of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Marine Fisheries Services, announces the receipt of a request from the California Department of Transportation for authorization to take small numbers of six species of marine mammals incidental to the dismantling of the original East Span of the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge in the San Francisco Bay. The authorization would allow take in the form of level B harassment of listed species between Sept. 1, 2017, and Aug. 31, 2018, through the use of highly controlled demolitions. Comments are due July 6, 2017. Contact: Dale Youngkin; NMFS, Office of Protected Resources; 301-427-8401

82 FR 26063 (06/06/2017)

Regulatory Update

GENERAL ENVIRONMENT AND SAFETY
California/Otay Water Pipeline Presidential Permit
GENERAL ENVIRONMENT AND SAFETY

Notice of the Department of State announces the issuance of a presidential permit to the Otay Water District to construct, connect, operate, and maintain cross-border water pipeline facilities to import desalinated seawater at the international boundary between the U.S. and Mexico in San Diego County, Calif. The permit includes mitigation measures set forth in the final environmental impact statement and associated biological opinion from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. It requires written notice to the State Department when construction has begun. The permit expires in five years if construction has not begun by that date. The permit is effective May 16, 2017. Contact: Department of State, Office of Mexican Affairs; 202-647-9894; WHABorderAffairs@state.gov

82 FR 26207 (06/06/2017)

Regulatory Update

GENERAL ENVIRONMENT AND SAFETY
EPA Science Advisory Board Meeting
GENERAL ENVIRONMENT AND SAFETY

Notice of the EPA Science Advisory Board Staff Office announces a meeting of the chartered SAB regarding planned actions for the fall 2016 semiannual regulatory agenda. The meeting will include discussion of recommendations and information concerning the adequacy of the science supporting the planned actions. The meeting is scheduled for June 29, 2017, via teleconference. Comments are due June 22, 2017. Contact: Thomas Carpenter; EPA, Science Advisory Board; 202-564-4885; carpenter.thomas@epa.gov

82 FR 26085 (06/06/2017)

Regulatory Update

GENERAL ENVIRONMENT AND SAFETY
Mid- and South Atlantic OCS/Marine Mammals Incidental Take
GENERAL ENVIRONMENT AND SAFETY

Notice of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Marine Fisheries Service, announces the receipt of five requests for authorizations to take marine mammals incidental to conducting geophysical survey activity off the Atlantic coast of the U.S. The proposed survey activity would take place within the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management's Mid-Atlantic and South Atlantic Outer Continental Shelf planning areas ranging from Delaware to Cape Canaveral, Fla., and out to 350 nautical miles. The joint notice specifies the agency's proposal to issue incidental harassment authorizations to incidentally take marine mammal species during the applicants' proposed activities, which consist of deep penetration seismic surveys using airgun arrays as an acoustic source. The proposed authorization includes mitigation, monitoring, and reporting requirements. Comments are due July 6, 2017. Contact: Ben Laws; NMFS, Office of Protected Resources; 301-427-8401

82 FR 26244 (06/06/2017)

Regulatory Update

GENERAL ENVIRONMENT AND SAFETY
Utah/Cross-Media Electronic Reporting
GENERAL ENVIRONMENT AND SAFETY

Notice of the EPA announces the approval of a request from Utah concerning cross-media electronic reporting requirements. The approval authorizes the state to revise its EPA-authorized programs to allow electronic reporting for its NPDES permit program (40 CFR 123), pretreatment regulations for existing and new sources of pollution (40 CFR 403) and sludge management program regulations (40 CFR 501). The approval is effective June 6, 2017. Contact: Karen Seeh; EPA, Office of Environmental Information; 202-566-1175; seeh.karen@epa.gov

82 FR 26099 (06/06/2017)

Regulatory Update

GENERAL ENVIRONMENT AND SAFETY
Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station
GENERAL ENVIRONMENT AND SAFETY

Notice of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission announces the availability of an environmental assessment and finding of no significant impact regarding an exemption request from the Entergy Nuclear Operations Inc., of Buchanan, N.Y., for the Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station, in Vernon, Vt. The exemption allows Entergy to load higher enriched fuel assemblies with certain lower enriched fuel assembles in the same HI-STORM 100 multipurpose canister using Certificate of Compliance No. 1014, Amendment No. 10. Contact: Yen-Ju Chen; NRC, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards; 301-415-1018; Yen-ju.Chen@nrc.gov

82 FR 26144 (06/06/2017)

Regulatory Update

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS TRANSPORTATION
Hours-of-Service Drivers/Split Sleeper Berth Time Pilot Program
HAZARDOUS MATERIALS TRANSPORTATION

Notice of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration announces a proposed pilot program for temporary relief to accumulate hours under commercial driver sleeper berth regulation (49 CFR 395). The program would allow a limited number of commercial drivers, who regularly use a sleeper berth, to split the required 10 hours of nonduty work status. During the pilot program, driver metrics would be collected and participants' safety performance and fatigue levels would be analyzed. Comments are due Aug. 7, 2017. Contact: Nicole Michel; FMCSA, Research Division; 202-366-4354; Nicole.michel@dot.gov

82 FR 26232 (06/06/2017)

Regulatory Update

HAZARDOUS WASTE CLEANUP
Federal Facilities List
HAZARDOUS WASTE CLEANUP

Notice of the EPA announces the availability of the 31st update of the Federal Agency Hazardous Waste Compliance Docket to identify federal facilities that manage hazardous waste or from which a reportable quantity of hazardous substances has been released. The notice identifies 33 facilities added since the Oct. 24, 2016, update (81 FR 73096) and corrections to and deletions from the list. The list of 2,338 facilities is current as of March 10, 2017. Contact: Benjamin Simes; EPA, Federal Facilities Restoration and Reuse Office; 703-603-0055; Simes.Benjamin@epa.gov

82 FR 26092 (06/06/2017)

Regulatory Update

OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH
Advisory Committee on Construction Safety and Health
OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH

Notice of OSHA announces a meeting of the Advisory Committee on Construction Safety and Health. The agenda includes discussion of a proposed rule to extend the enforcement date for the crane operator certification requirements in the cranes and derricks in construction standard (29 CFR 1926, Subpart CC) to Nov. 10, 2018, and to extend the existing employer duty to ensure crane operator competency for the same period. The meeting is scheduled for June 20, 2017, via teleconference. Comments are due June 9, 2017. Contact: Damon Bonneau; OSHA, Directorate of Construction; 202-693-2020; bonneau.damon@dol.gov

82 FR 26121 (06/06/2017)

Regulatory Update

OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH
Respirator Program Records
OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH

Notice of the Mine Safety and Health Administration announces the submission of a continuing information collection request to the OMB regarding metal and nonmetal mine operator respirator program records (30 CFR 56.5005 and 57.5005). The collection addresses requirements for operators to keep records regarding written standard operating procedures governing the selection and use of respirators, the date of issuance of respirators, fit-tested results, and findings for respirators maintained for emergency use. Comments are due July 6, 2017. Contact: Michel Smyth; Department of Labor; 202-693-8064; DOL_PRA_PUBLIC@dol.gov

82 FR 26120 (06/06/2017)

Regulatory Update

PESTICIDES
FIFRA Scientific Advisory Panel Meeting
PESTICIDES

Notice of the EPA announces a meeting of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act Scientific Advisory Panel to consider and review physiologically based pharmacokinetic (PBPK) modeling to address pharmacokinetic differences between and within species. The meeting will include review of PBPK and PBPK-pharmacodynamic models for the insecticides carbaryl, deltamethrin, dimethoate, malathion, and permethrin. The meeting also will include background on and discussion of the PBPK model for the fungicide acibenzolar. The EPA requests nominations of candidates with expertise in PBPK modeling, pharmacokinetics, pharmacodynamic modeling, in vitro to in vivo extrapolation, human health risk assessment, neurotoxicity, organophosphate pesticides, pyrethroids pesticides, N-methylcarbamate pesticides, fungicides, acetylcholinesterase inhibition, and exposure assessment to serve as ad hoc expert members of FIFRA SAP for this meeting. The meeting is scheduled for Oct. 24-27, 2017, in Arlington, Va., and via webcast. Nominations are due July 21, 2017. Comments are due Oct. 11, 2017. Contact: Marquea King; EPA, Office of Science Coordination and Policy; 202-564-3626; king.marquea@epa.gov

82 FR 26086 (06/06/2017)

Regulatory Update

PESTICIDES
FIFRA Scientific Advisory Panel Meeting/Endocrine Disruption
PESTICIDES

Notice of the EPA announces a meeting of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act Scientific Advisory Panel to consider and review scientific issues concerning the continuing development of alternative high-throughput screens to determine endocrine disruption. The meeting will include review of the agency's proposed high-throughput computational model of androgen receptor pathway activity and discussion of development of a high-throughput model of steriodgenesis and of a proposed adverse outcome pathway-based framework for screening chemicals for potential thyroid disruption. The EPA also requests nominations of candidates with expertise in toxicology, physiology, biochemistry, endocrinology (clinical and research), and epidemiology to serve as ad hoc expert members of FIFRA SAP for this meeting. The meeting is scheduled for Nov. 28-30, 2017, in Arlington, Va., and via webcast. Nominations are due July 21, 2017. Comments are due Sept. 28, 2017. Contact: Todd Peterson; EPA, Office of Science Coordination and Policy; 202-564-6428; peterson.todd@epa.gov

82 FR 26097 (06/06/2017)

Regulatory Update

RADIATION
Licenses and Radiation Safety Requirements for Well Logging
RADIATION

Notice of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission announces the submission of a continuing information collection request to the OMB regarding licenses and radiation safety requirements for well logging (10 CFR 39). The collection addresses application, reporting, and recordkeeping requirements for specific licenses authorizing the use of radioactive material for radiography. Comments are due July 6, 2017. Contact: David Cullison; NRC, Office of the Chief Information Officer; 301-415-2084; INFOCOLLECTS.Resource@NRC.GOV

82 FR 26145 (06/06/2017)

Regulatory Update

RADIATION
List of Approved Spent Fuel Storage Casks
RADIATION

Direct final rule of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission amends regulations under 10 CFR 72.214 to revise the NAC International Passive MAGNASTOR® Transfer Cask System listing within the list of approved spent fuel storage casks. The rule adds Amendment No. 7 to the certificate of compliance (No. 1031) to incorporate revised seismic requirements to appendices of the technical specifications. The rule is effective Aug. 21, 2017, unless adverse comments are received by July 6, 2017. Contact: Keith McDaniel; NRC, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards; 301-415-5252; Keith.McDaniel@nrc.gov

82 FR 25931 (06/06/2017)

Regulatory Update

RADIATION
List of Approved Spent Fuel Storage Casks
RADIATION

Proposed rule of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission amends regulations under 10 CFR 72.214 to revise the NAC International Passive MAGNASTOR® Transfer Cask System listing within the list of approved spent fuel storage casks. The rule adds Amendment No. 7 to the certificate of compliance (No. 1031) to incorporate revised seismic requirements to appendices of the technical specifications. A concurrent direct final rule adopts the provisions, effective Aug. 21, 2017. Comments are due July 6, 2017. Contact: Keith McDaniel; NRC, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards; 301-415-5252; Keith.McDaniel@nrc.gov

82 FR 25973 (06/06/2017)

Regulatory Update

WATER

Payments for Benefits from Headwater Improvements

WATER

Notice of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission announces the submission of a continuing information collection request to the OMB regarding payment for benefits from headwater improvements, which provide additional energy production from the regulation of river flows by an upstream storage reservoir (FERC-521; 18 CFR 11, Subpart B). The collection addresses data reporting requirements for downstream federal and nonfederal hydropower project owners. The data is also used to determine annual charges for nonfederal hydropower projects. Comments are due July 6, 2017. Contact: Ellen Brown; FERC; 202-502-8663; DataClearance@FERC.gov

82 FR 26081 (06/06/2017)

Regulatory Update

WATER

Steam Electric Power Generating Point Source Category/Compliance Dates Postponement

WATER

Proposed rule of the EPA amends regulations under 40 CFR 423.10, 423.13 and 423.16 to postpone compliance dates for a Nov. 3, 2015, final rule (80 FR 67838) that revised effluent limitations guidelines and new source performance standards for wastewater discharges from the electric power generating point source category. The rule established effluent limitations and standards for wastewaters associated with specified processes or byproducts. The current rule postpones compliance dates that have not yet passed for the wastestreams fly ash transport water, bottom ash transport water, flue gas desulfurization wastewater, flue gas mercury control wastewater, and gasification wastewater, pending agency reconsideration. Comments are due July 6, 2017. Contact: Ronald Jordan; EPA, Engineering and Analysis Division; 202-564-1003; jordan.ronald@epa.gov

82 FR 26017 (06/06/2017)

Regulatory Update

WATER

Virginia/Public Water System Supervision Program.

WATER

Notice of the EPA announces the tentative approval of revisions to Virginia's public water system supervision program. The notice specifies that the state has adopted drinking water regulations for the Revised Total Coliform Rule and that the EPA has determined that the revisions are no less stringent than the corresponding federal regulations. The approval is effective July 6, 2017, unless hearing requests are received by that date. Contact: Patti Kay Wisniewski; EPA Region 3, Drinking Water Branch; 215-814-5668; wisniewski.patti-kay@epa.gov

82 FR 26089 (06/06/2017)

Regulatory Update

WATER

Washington State Public Water Supply Supervision Program

WATER

Notice of the EPA announces the tentative approval of revisions to the state of Washington's public water supply supervision primacy program. The revisions incorporate national primary drinking water regulations under the Revised Total Coliform Rule. The approval is effective July 6, 2017, unless hearing requests are received by that date. Contact: Ricardi Duvil; EPA Region 10, Drinking Water Unit; 206-553-2578, duvil.ricardi@epa.gov

82 FR 26089 (06/06/2017)

Regulatory Update

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EHS Federal Regulatory Alert

To: Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
From: Morning Score
Sent: Thur 5/25/2017 2:04:38 PM
Subject: POLITICO's Morning Score: Election Day in Montana — GOP candidate cited for assault of reporter — Ossoff raised $6.9M online in April

By Kevin Robillard | 05/25/2017 10:00 AM EDT

With Scott Bland and Daniel Strauss

The following newsletter is an abridged version of Campaign Pro's Morning Score. For an earlier morning read on exponentially more races - and for a more comprehensive aggregation of the day's most important campaign news - sign up for Campaign Pro today. (http://www.politicopro.com/proinfo)

FIVE THINGS TO WATCH IN MONTANA - POLITICO's Gabriel Debenedetti previews the MT-AL special from Missoula: "The closer-than-expected Montana special election is destined to be picked apart for clues about how voters feel about Donald Trump's nascent presidency. Like the record-breaking Georgia special election that will be decided next month - already the most expensive House race in history - the Montana contest between Republican businessman Greg Gianforte and Democratic musician Rob Quist is awash in money, nearly doubling the price tag of the state's previous most expensive campaign. The outcome of the at-large House race won't just serve as an early look at Trump's standing with voters in a red state he carried easily. It will also provide insight into the conditions Republicans are likely to face in the midterm elections, when the House majority could be in jeopardy. But complicating matters, a bizarre election eve incident Wednesday night drew national attention as Gianforte allegedly body-slammed a reporter who was asking him about the GOP's health care plan, sparking an investigation from the local sheriff just hours before polls opened.. ... Here are POLITICO's five things to watch as Montana votes today: THE TRUMP (AND PENCE) EFFECT ... JUST HOW ENERGIZED IS THE DEMOCRATIC BASE? ... THE GOP FREAK-OUT WATCH ... THE POLITICS OF REPEAL AND REPLACE ... WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR 2018...AND 2020?" **Full story.**

- LATE BREAK - "Montana House GOP candidate cited after reporter says he 'body-slammed me,'" by POLITICO's Hadas Gold and Gabriel Debenedetti: "Montana Republican congressional candidate Greg Gianforte was issued a citation late Wednesday after he allegedly "body-slammed" a reporter at a campaign event on the eve of a hotly contested special election. Ben Jacobs, a reporter for The Guardian tweeted that Gianforte "body-slammed me and broke my glasses" at a campaign event in Bozeman, Montana - minutes before what was to be the last campaign rally of the campaign. Jacobs said he had asked Gianforte about a new budget analysis of House Republicans' effort to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act." **Full story, including Jacobs' audio of the incident .**

- Gianforte was cited for misdemeanor assault late Wednesday night, per the Gallatin County sheriff.

- "Fox News team witnesses GOP House candidate 'body slam' reporter," by Fox News'

Alicia Acuna: "... During that conversation, another man - who we now know is Ben Jacobs of The Guardian - walked into the room with a voice recorder, put it up to Gianforte's face and began asking if him if he had a response to the newly released Congressional Budget Office report on the American Health Care Act. Gianforte told him he would get to him later. Jacobs persisted with his question. Gianforte told him to talk to his press guy, Shane Scanlon. **At that point, Gianforte grabbed Jacobs by the neck with both hands and slammed him into the ground behind him. Faith, Keith and I watched in disbelief as Gianforte then began punching the man,** as he moved on top the reporter and began yelling something to the effect of 'I'm sick and tired of this!' Jacobs scrambled to his knees and said something about his glasses being broken. He asked Faith, Keith and myself for our names. In shock, we did not answer. He then said he wanted the police called and went to leave. Gianforte looked at the three of us and repeatedly apologized. ... To be clear, at no point did any of us who witnessed this assault see Jacobs show any form of physical aggression toward Gianforte, who left the area after giving statements to local sheriff's deputies." **Full story.**

- The DCCC and MoveOn.org have turned the audio tape into digital ads and Priorities USA is promoting local news stories about the incident on Facebook. The story was also all over the news in Montana Wednesday night. Onel local TV stations broke into an episode of Modern Family with the story, and it led promos for the late local news on a number of other stations, according to a survey of broadcast TV transcripts in the state.

- Polls close at 10 p.m. Eastern tonight, when results will start coming in here, via the Montana secretary of state's office.

DIGITAL FUNDRAISING WATCH - "Ossoff raised $6.9M online in April," by Campaign Pro's Scott Bland: "Georgia Democrat Jon Ossoff raised over $6.9 million online in April - more than the DCCC, DSCC and DNC combined - as donors continue to pour cash into the heated special House election in the Atlanta suburbs. That's according to new federal campaign finance records filed this week by ActBlue, the Democratic online fundraising platform. It's the first broad look at Ossoff's fundraising since the beginning of last month, when Ossoff's campaign filed its own FEC report before the special primary on April 18. Ossoff reported raising over $8.3 million by March 29 in that filing." **Full story, including online fundraising numbers from Senate Democrats and major PACs.**

- NEW THIS A.M. - Veteran attacks Ossoff in new super PAC spot: A new ad from Congressional Leadership Fund in the Georgia 6th special election features a Vietnam veteran nurse criticizing Democrat Jon Ossoff for inflating his resume on national security and voting with Nancy Pelosi. "Ossoff is a liberal and immature and he lied to us about his national security experience," says Donna Rowe, a retired Army captain. "Ossoff would vote with Nancy Pelosi to put our soldiers and our dear country at risk. Jon Ossoff cannot be trusted." **Watch the ad here.**

CBO REPORT - "House Obamacare repeal bill would leave 23 million more uninsured," by Adam Cancryn and Sarah Ferris: "Roughly 23 million more people would be uninsured over a decade if the House-passed Republican Obamacare repeal bill becomes law, according to a long-awaited CBO analysis that could complicate GOP hopes of getting a companion measure through the Senate. That's nearly identical to the coverage losses that CBO forecast for an earlier

version of the bill - despite the addition of new provisions and billions of dollars in funding aimed at keeping more people insured. The nonpartisan scorekeeping office also forecast the GOP plan would cut the deficit by $119 billion over a decade, primarily because of its cuts to Medicaid and private insurance subsidies." **Full story.**

- AARP ADS - Group to spend $1 million-plus pressuring five Republicans: "The group is targeting Arizona Sen. Jeff Flake and Nevada Sen. Dean Heller, both of whom are up for reelection in potential battleground states in 2018, as well as Colorado Sen. Cory Gardner and Alaska Sens. Dan Sullivan and Lisa Murkowski. The ad attacks the Republican health care plan passed by the House, saying it allows insurance companies to charge an "age tax" and does not protect people with pre-existing conditions. The ads will start airing this week." **Watch the ads here.**

Days until the 2017 election: 167.

Days until the 2018 election: 531.

Thanks for joining us. You can email tips to the Campaign Pro team at sbland@politico.com, eschneider@politico.com, krobillard@politico.com and dstrauss@politico.com.

You can also follow us on Twitter: @politicoscott, @ec_schneider, @politicokevin and @danielstrauss4.

PROGRAMMING NOTE - Due to the Memorial Day holiday, Morning Score will not publish on Monday, May 29. Our next Morning Score will publish on Tuesday, May 30.

DEMOCRATIC DEBATES - "Health care or Russia? Democrats divided on 2018 focus," by Kevin Robillard and Elana Schor: "The party's campaign committees and many of Democrats' leading super PACs have spent virtually all their energy this year on shaming Republicans for their push to repeal Obamacare, an issue that clearly touches voters' daily lives. But on the other side of the split, American Bridge - the party's outside-group research arm run by David Brock, the well-known Hillary Clinton ally - is among those convinced the investigation into possible collusion between President Donald Trump's campaign and Russian officials is one Democrats would be foolish to downplay or wait to take advantage of. A raft of data has already tabbed the House Republican health care bill as highly unpopular. But after last week's explosive developments related to the Russia investigation, Democratic groups have commissioned polling to gauge just how damaging the probe could be to Republicans in the 2018 midterms. They've also begun testing theories on how to make Trump's Russia problem into House and Senate Republicans' Russia problem." **Full story.**

MAJORITY FORWARD LAUNCHES ADS IN SIX STATES - Majority Forward, a Democratic nonprofit with ties to Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, is airing new ads in six states on the Senate battleground map. In Indiana, the ad praises Sen. Joe Donnelly for working to bring jobs back from overseas. **Watch it here.** In Missouri, an ad jointly paid for with VoteVets, the spot praises Sen. Claire McCaskill for working to make the VA more accountable. **Watch it here.** In Arizona, the ad uses town hall footage to hit Sen. Jeff Flake over

Obamacare repeal. **Watch it here.** In Nevada, the ad attacks Sen. Dean Heller over cuts to Medicaid, including nursing homes and rural hospitals. **Watch it here.** In North Dakota, the ad praises Sen. Heidi Heitkamp for her work helping the state's military bases. **Watch it here.** In Montana, the ad praises Sen. Jon Tester for his work to defend internet privacy. **Watch it here.**

2018 WATCH - "Lynn Westmoreland is NOT running for governor," by the Atlanta Journal-Constitution's Greg Bluestein: "In a statement to the AJC, Westmoreland said 'the best contribution that I can make to our state is outside of elected office.' He added that he looks forward to 'doing all I can to support the Republican nominee for governor and the entire Republican ticket in 2018.'" **Full story.**

ENDORSEMENT WATCH - Portman backs Mandel: With Rep. Pat Tiberi now longer in the running for Senate, Ohio Sen. Rob Portman has endorsed state treasurer Josh Mandel for the GOP Senate nomination. "Today, I'm encouraging all Republicans to unify behind Josh," Portman says in an endorsement video. **Watch it here.**

TRANSITIONS - Let America Vote announces senior staff hires: The Jason Kander-led voting rights group has hired Abe Rakov, Kander's campaign manager, as executive director. Brendan Summers, who was the Iowa Caucus Director for the Bernie Sanders campaign, will be campaigns director. Sylvia Ruiz, who worked as the Hillary Clinton's campaign director of Hispanic Paid Media, will be political director. Leigh Chapman, formerly of the Pennsylvania Secretary of State's office and the Voter Protection Program, will be senior policy advisor. Suzy Smith will be digital director, Ben Tyson will be national field director and Austin Laufersweiler will be press secretary.

- NRSC hires new regional press secretary. The Republican Senate committee has brought on Michael McAdams as the third person in its press operation.

- Daily Kos hires Fiddler: Carolyn Fiddler, the DLCC's communications director, will become Daily Kos' political editor and senior communications adviser. Fiddler will be based in D.C. and lead the website's coverage of and efforts surrounding redistricting and state legislatures.

- "Renee Ellmers, who endorsed Trump early, lands a federal job," by The News & Observer's Lynn Bonner: "Former U.S. Rep. Renee Ellmers, an early supporter of Donald Trump for president, has a new job in the Trump administration running the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' regional office in Atlanta. ... Ellmers lost a primary to fellow Republican U.S. Rep. George Holding last year." **Full story.**

- DGA hires Illinois communications director. The Democratic Governors Association is bringing on Sam Salustro, previously the research director on former Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley's presidential campaign, as a communications director focused on the Illinois governor's race.

CODA - QUOTE OF THE DAY: "Al is trying to sell books and apparently he's decided that being obnoxious and insulting me is good for causing liberals to buy his books." - Texas Sen. Ted Cruz, to POLITICO, on Al Franken devoting a chapter of his book to mocking him.

To view online:
http://www.politico.com/tipsheets/morning-score/2017/05/25/election-day-in-montana-220503

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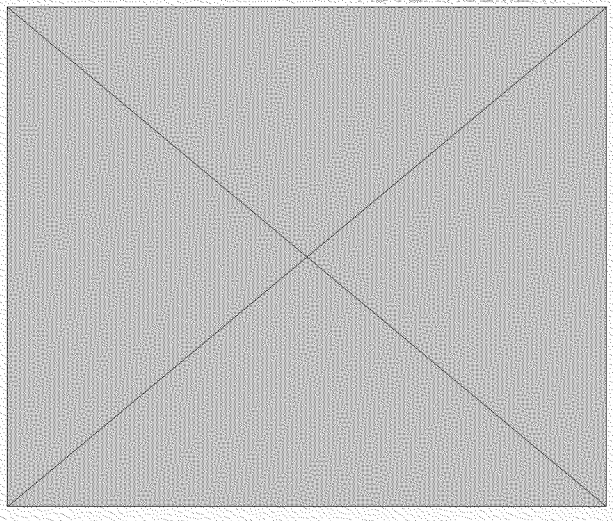
To: Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
From: The Washington Post
Sent: Fri 5/26/2017 4:00:51 PM
Subject: [SPAM] Checkpoint: U.S. failed to keep proper track of more than $1 billion in weapons and equipment in Iraq



Jared Kushner, and why his meetings with the Russians matter more than ever

Investigators and lawmakers want to find out what Kushner knows.
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Pentagon confirms airstrike killed more than 100 civilians in Mosul, blames ISIS explosives

The strike is probably the single deadliest civilian casualty incident in the campaign against ISIS.
By Thomas Gibbons-Neff • Read more »

U.S. and Russia boost dialogue about Syria operations to include generals

"My job is to provide them with as clear and unambiguous intent as possible," a U.S. general said.

By Dan Lamothe • Read more »

Their son died at Marine Corps boot camp. Now they have a message for other recruits.

Zachary Boland died Nov. 4 at Parris Island, S.C.

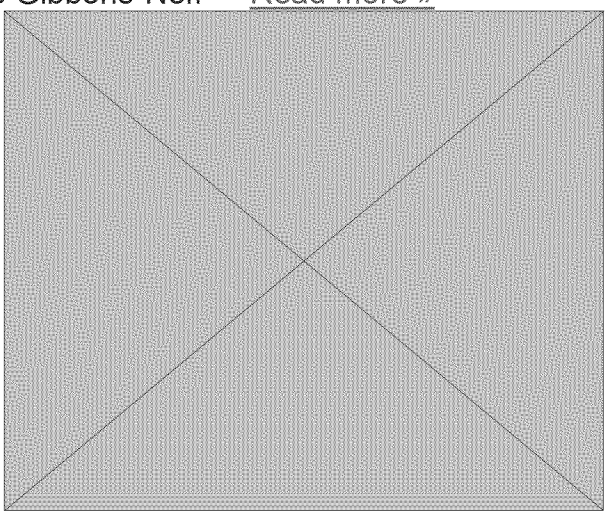
By Dan Lamothe • Read more »

U.S. failed to keep proper track of more than $1 billion in weapons and equipment in Iraq

The weapons were meant to equip the Iraqi army, Shiite militias and the Kurdish Peshmerga in their fight against the Islamic State.

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To: Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
From: POLITICO
Sent: Thur 6/8/2017 4:15:15 PM
Subject: BREAKING NEWS: Ryan defends Trump on Comey: 'The president's new at this'

Speaker Paul Ryan on Thursday defended President Donald Trump's communications with ex-FBI director James Comey, saying Trump wasn't "steeped in the long-running protocols" of how to interact with law enforcement.

"The president's new at this," Ryan said at a news conference. "He's new at government."

The Wisconsin Republican also expressed sympathy for Trump's frustration with the Russia investigation, noting that Comey testified before the Senate Intelligence Committee that Trump was not the subject of the probe. "I think the American people now know why he was frustrated."

Read more: http://www.politico.com/story/2017/06/08/ryan-defends-trump-on-comey-the-presidents-new-at-this-239298

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Subject: June 06 -- EHS State Regulatory Alert

EHS State Regulatory Alert

June 06, 2017 - Number 107

You can create a report customized by topic, jurisdiction, and date range by using the Regulatory Summaries Report Tool. The report can be generated in Excel, Word, or PDF.

Alaska

WATER
Water Quality Standards/Antidegradation Methods
Alaska WATER

Proposed rule of the Department of Environmental Conservation amends regulations under 18 AAC 70.015 and .990 and adopts regulations under 18 AAC 70.016 regarding water quality standards. The rule sets forth new antidegradation implementation methods for Alaska Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permitted wastewater discharges. The rule also specifies the levels of protection for U.S. waters within the state that conform with the Clean Water Act and adds definitions. A hearing is scheduled for July 20, 2017, in Anchorage. Comments are due Aug. 7, 2017. Contact: Earl Crapps; ADEC, Division of Water; 907-269-7681; Earl.Crapps@alaska.gov

—Alaska Regulations (06/02/2017)

Regulatory Update

California

HAZARDOUS WASTE CLEANUP
Settlement Agreement/Gordon Research Co. Site
California HAZARDOUS WASTE CLEANUP

Notice of the Department of Toxic Substances Control announces a proposed lien settlement agreement with Nur Al-Huda Academy regarding the former Gordon Research Co. site in Manteca. The settlement addresses historical contamination of soil with heavy metals, polychlorinated biphenyls, dioxins, and other toxins. The settlement requires the academy to implement a removal action work plan to clean up remaining contamination at the site and to pay certain costs in consideration for a covenant not to sue and contribution protection from DTSC and removal of DTSC's statutory lien on the property. Comments are due July 2, 2017. Contact:

Charlie Ridenour; DTSC; 916-255-6442; Charlie.Ridenour@dtsc.ca.gov

—California Regulatory Notice Register (06/02/2017)

Regulatory Update

HAZARDOUS WASTE MANAGEMENT
Unified Program Surcharge Fee
California HAZARDOUS WASTE MANAGEMENT

Notice of Cal-EPA announces changes to the Unified Hazardous Waste and Hazardous Materials Management Regulatory Program surcharge fees for fiscal year 2017-2018 as specified under 27 CCR 15240. The changes include increases in the oversight portion of the state surcharge to $49 and the underground storage tank program portion of the surcharge to $20. The changes also include a new refinery safety portion of the state surcharge consisting of four tiers based on daily barrel production capacity. The revised surcharges are effective June 2, 2017. Contact: Melinda Blum; Cal-EPA, Unified Program Unit; 916-327-9560; Melinda.Blum@calepa.ca.gov

—California Regulatory Notice Register (06/02/2017)

Regulatory Update

OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH
Occupational Exposure to Beryllium
California OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH

Proposed rule of the Department of Industrial Relations, Occupational Safety and Health Standards Board, amends regulations under 8 CCR 5155 and adopts regulations under 8 CCR 1535.1, 5205 and 8359.1 to align state requirements for occupational exposure to beryllium for construction; general industry; and ship building, repairing and breaking with Jan. 9, 2017, federal amendments. The rule reduces the airborne permissible exposure limit to 0.2 micrograms per cubic meter of air as an eight-hour time-weighted average and 2.0 µg/m3 as a short-term exposure limit determined over a sampling period of 15 minutes. The rule also sets forth requirements for exposure assessment, methods for controlling exposure, respiratory protection, personal protective clothing and equipment, medical surveillance, hazard communication, and recordkeeping. In addition, the rule provides a list of nonmandatory control options that employers can use to comply with the rule in a number of specific beryllium operations. Finally, the rule specifies compliance dates for the three industry standards and for change room and engineering control requirements. A hearing is scheduled for July 20, 2017, in San Diego. Comments are due July 20, 2017. Contact: Marley Hart; DIR, Cal-OSHA Standards Board; 916-274-5721

—California Regulatory Notice Register (06/02/2017)

Regulatory Update

WATER
Water Quality Control/Los Angeles Region
California WATER

Final rule of the State Water Resources Control Board adopts regulations under 23 CCR 3939.23

regarding the water quality control plan for the Los Angeles Region. The rule incorporates an amendment to the basin plan that revises the total maximum daily load for metals and selenium in Calleguas Creek, its tributaries, and Mugu Lagoon. The rule is effective May 18, 2017. Contact: Thanhloan Nguyen; SWRCB; 213-576-6689

—California Regulatory Notice Register (06/02/2017)

Regulatory Update

Pennsylvania

WATER
Chesapeake Bay Watershed Implementation Plan
Pennsylvania WATER

Notice of the Department of Environmental Protection announces a request for comments to inform development of the commonwealth's Phase 3 Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP) for the Chesapeake Bay. The department is developing the plan in coordination with the EPA and other agencies and shareholders to achieve certain federal total maximum daily load standards in Chesapeake Bay watershed counties by 2025. The EPA is conducting a midpoint assessment of nitrogen, phosphorus and sediment levels this year that will define how the commonwealth designs the Phase 3 WIP. Comments are due July 7, 2017. Contact: DEP; 717-783-2300

—Pennsylvania Bulletin (06/03/2017)

Regulatory Update

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EHS State Regulatory Alert

To: Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
From: Morning Transportation
Sent: Thur 5/25/2017 2:07:38 PM
Subject: POLITICO's Morning Transportation: When can we expect an FAA bill? — A ban on talking about the laptop ban — Clarke who?

By Brianna Gurciullo and Tanya Snyder | 05/25/2017 10:03 AM EDT

With help from Lauren Gardner and Stephanie Beasley

PANDA WATCH IS BACK: The process of reauthorizing the FAA may be molasses-like, but MT is here to take you through every sticky step. Lauren Gardner started the tradition of calling this exercise our panda watch last year, a legacy that now continues. Here's the latest: Senate Commerce Chairman John Thune (R-S.D.) told Lauren on Wednesday that he's shooting for a June markup. And while he'd prefer the House act on a bill first, Thune's gunning for floor time in July. "I've talked with [House Transportation Committee Chairman Bill] Shuster about it, but we've got to work, too," Thune said, adding that he is "trying to sort of sync up as much as we can" with the lower chamber.

Where's the popcorn: The end of September may seem like a long way away, but consider this: Health care, the tax code, nominations, appropriations, the debt ceiling, Trump-related investigations and other issues will jam up the congressional calendar through the end of the fiscal year and beyond. Shuster's push to include an air traffic control overhaul in the reauthorization certainly won't accelerate the timeline.

Wait and see: Earlier this month, we asked Thune whether it looks like a reauthorization or an extension will be enacted before Sept. 30. "We'll see what we can get done," he said then. He also told us at the time that while senators are "open to listening" to Shuster's pitch to separate air traffic control operations from the FAA, it's "something the House will have to lead on."

IT'S THURSDAY: Thanks for tuning in to POLITICO's Morning Transportation, your daily tipsheet on all things trains, planes, automobiles and ports. We are your MT hosts today, so please send tips, feedback and lyrics to tsnyder@politico.com or @TSnyderDC and bgurciullo@politico.com or @brigurciullo.

"Well on a train / I met a dame / She rather handsome / We kinda looked the same."

Want to keep up with MT's song picks? Follow our Spotify playlist.

PROGRAMMING NOTE - Due to the Memorial Day holiday, Morning Transportation will not publish on Monday, May 29. Our next Morning Transportation will publish on Tuesday, May 30. Please continue to follow Pro Transportation issues here.

2GOOD 2B 4GOTTEN : Ninety-nine people entered our contest to guess when the administration would release an infrastructure proposal. We announced the three winners this week, but some of our other entrants' comments were just too good to leave on the cutting room floor. Here they are (anonymous, of course): "Tuesdays are always a good day to rollout news.

Mondays, too hectic, Fridays, do people work in DC still on Fridays?" Another guessed that a plan was just as likely to come out in a Trump tweet as in a "known-in-advance press release from Sec. Chao based on detailed consultation with state DOTs, private sector actors, advocacy groups and USDOT." Another asked if respondents could "short the market" and bet on no plan at all. "If so, I'll take that," he said. "2021 is a long time to wait for coffee, though." One person whose guess was just three days too late said the plan would arrive "late in the afternoon, right when everyone is trying to get out of town for Memorial Day Weekend on our roads that need repair." And another expressed hope for a "contest on guessing the enactment date... if it actually comes anywhere close to that."

A BAN ON TALKING ABOUT THE BAN: There won't be any more U.S.-European discussions about a possible expansion of an electronics ban to airports in Europe and beyond unless European officials push for it, DHS spokesman David Lapan said during a pen and pad Wednesday. Lapan said DHS had a third, and seemingly final, meeting with European officials Tuesday to discuss best practices for aviation security as well as the merits of adding European airports to the directive banning large electronic devices in the cabins of U.S.-bound flights.

Not a negotiation: The meetings were meant to foster information-sharing, not to serve as an opportunity for officials to negotiate about whether DHS should move forward with an expansion of the ban, Lapan said. "It's the secretary's decision," he said. "The Europeans have asked for meetings and for more information. That's what we've been providing."

CLARKE WHO? DHS still isn't corroborating Milwaukee County Sheriff David Clarke's claim that he's been selected for an assistant secretary position at the agency's Office of Partnership and Engagement. "The position is a secretary of Homeland Security-appointed position and we have not made an announcement on who will fill that position," Lapan said. (The fact that Clarke has been embroiled in controversy this week following allegations that he plagiarized large parts of his master's thesis is probably not the resume booster he needed.)

NO, YOU SHUT UP: Rep. Henry Cuellar (D-Texas) upbraided Homeland Security Secretary John Kelly during a House Appropriations subcommittee hearing Wednesday, seizing on an earlier slight Kelly made some months ago when he told Congress to "shut up" and let his agents do their jobs. "I don't think it's correct for you to tell members of Congress to shut up, if we disagree," Cuellar said. "I'm just saying - otherwise it's going to be a long term for you." Kelly did not back down from his earlier remarks, but clarified that while it was fine to criticize him or the administration's policies, he would not abide criticism of his personnel, suggesting they should be treated with the same respect as those in the military.

DHS budget gets lukewarm reaction: Reps. Nita Lowey (D-N.Y.) and Rep. David Price (D-N.C.) generally panned the White House's heavy focus on securing the U.S.-Mexico border in its fiscal 2018 DHS budget proposal, saying directing more resources there would come at the expense of other national security initiatives. For example, TSA bomb-sniffing teams would be reduced from 31 to eight. Lowey said Trump's budget recommendations for DHS fail to "fully reflect the grave character of the threats we face."

About that reimbursement idea: Trump's proposal also calls for TSA to stop reimbursing

airports that hire local law enforcement officers. DHS spokesman David Lapan told reporters during a pen and pad earlier Wednesday that although airports would no longer be reimbursed, they would still legally be required to maintain law enforcement officers at their facilities.

THE COAST (GUARD) IS CLEAR: The Coast Guard reauthorization bill (H.R. 2518) the House Transportation Committee approved Wednesday includes a 3 percent funding increase for next year and a few gifts for Democratic lawmakers, including clarifying that the Coast Guard should authorize vessels for five years at a time instead of just one. "This is a major problem for people," Rep. Peter DeFazio (D-Ore.) said at the markup, noting that vessels within six months of the expiration of their documentation can't enter U.S. ports and the Coast Guard is "a year behind in issuing documents."

Just this once: Washington Democrat Rick Larsen's amendment to issue a Jones Act waiver to a shipbuilder in his district was approved - grudgingly - by voice vote. The shipbuilder in question had discovered that the vessel it was building was comprised of "an excess amount of foreign-fabricated steel" in violation of the Jones Act's "Buy America" requirement. Shuster assented, but he wasn't happy about it. "If we don't have the Jones Act, we won't have shipbuilding capacity, commercially or for our military," he said. "One of the greatest seafaring powers in the world, the British, can't even build a ship today. The United States of America should never, ever, ever be in that position."

CAUGHT FLAT-FOOTED: MT would like to extend her sincerest apologies to Shuster, on whose heel she accidentally stepped while trying to ask him a question off the House floor Wednesday. MT promises to be lighter on her feet in the future.

MY WAY FOR THE HIGHWAY: Today, the Congressional Progressive Caucus and a coalition of left-of-center organizations will announce their drive for a progressive infrastructure package that would "prioritize public investment over corporate giveaways and selling off public goods." That includes plans to introduce a concurrent resolution stating that taxpayers shouldn't "subsidize billionaires ... that will profit from privatizing" infrastructure. Read their white paper here.

MT MAILBAG: The Rail Customer Coalition, a group of bulk goods shippers that primarily rely on rail, sent a letter to Trump this week urging him to nominate Patrick Fuchs as a member of the Surface Transportation Board. Fuchs is the lead rail staffer on the Senate Commerce Committee who helped write the 2015 STB reauthorization. The coalition also wants Ann Begeman, the board's current acting chairwoman, to serve as permanent chairwoman.

AY MI CUBA: Travel companies operating in Cuba breathed a sigh of relief on May 20, when Trump recognized the anniversary of the end of Spanish rule without announcing a rollback in President Barack Obama's policy of liberalizing travel to the island, as some expected he would. Still, they're not taking anything for granted. More than 40 U.S. travel companies and associations sent Trump a letter Wednesday urging him to maintain and even expand permissions for U.S. citizens to travel to the island. The organizations said the increase in U.S. travel to Cuba has increased their revenue and allowed them to hire more U.S. employees. They want to see Congress act to remove statutory barriers to travel as well.

MAKE SOME NOISE: Flight attendants and pilots on Wednesday descended on the Capitol to appeal to lawmakers and the administration to push back against Gulf carriers that they say receive unfair government subsidies. Tim Canoll, the president of the Air Line Pilots Association, said the groups aren't looking for lawmakers to address the issue in the forthcoming FAA reauthorization because it "is still something that well resides within the purview of the executive branch." However, they are hoping lawmakers pressure the Trump administration to stop those airlines from getting more routes to the United States and potentially revisit Open Skies agreements with Qatar and the United Arab Emirates.

BUDGET CLEANUP: One note of clarification. We questioned earlier this week whether the budget's proposed air traffic control overhaul would affect retirement plans for controllers because of the wording in one of OMB's footnotes. But administration officials say they weren't intended to be tied together and were mentioned in the same footnote because each proposal - removing ATC operations from the FAA and making changes to civilian employee retirement plans - would reduce discretionary spending caps in a similar fashion.

BY THE NUMBERS: Seventy-one percent of respondents to a new Morning Consult/POLITICO poll said passing an infrastructure package should be a "top" or "important, but lower" priority for lawmakers. Eleven percent said an infrastructure package should be the No. 1 priority for lawmakers when listed alongside other goals like overhauling health care or the tax code. Here are the toplines and crosstabs.

CRUZ IN FOR A BRUISIN': Carnival Cruise Lines has apparently gotten tangled up in a feud between Sens. Al Franken (D-Minn.) and Ted Cruz (R-Texas), reports MT alum Burgess Everett. Franken devoted an entire chapter of his book, "Giant of the Senate," to hating on Cruz - and included this lowbrow crack: "When most people think of a cruise that's full of sh**, they think of Carnival. But we think of Ted." Carnival did not respond to a request for comment by press time.

MAYORS PRIORITIZE WALKABILITY: As cities continue to bounce back from the recession - and then some - they can afford to address infrastructure issues, according to the National League of Cities' new "State of the Cities" report. They're investing in transit expansion, long-overdue repairs and maintenance and neighborhood amenities. Mayors are especially focused on biking and walking infrastructure, including bike share systems. The report found that 43 percent of this year's "State of the City" speeches included "significant coverage of infrastructure issues."

SHIFTING GEARS: American Airlines has hired Nathan Gatten - who's been managing director and head of global government relations at JPMorgan Chase - to be senior vice president for government affairs.

THE AUTOBAHN:

- "Get ready to unpack for airport security." The Wall Street Journal.

- "Someone killed a congressional inquiry into America's sky-high transit construction costs." Vox.

- "Trump administration continues to consider Purple Line for $900 million in funding." The Washington Post.

- "Trump wants $108M for deeper ports; Corps adds $56M boost." The Associated Press.

- "FAA: Airlines must remove unsafe seats from some regional planes." USA Today.

- "Hawaii sues Ford, Nissan and Toyota over dangerous air bags." The Associated Press.

- "This Memorial Day weekend is expected to be Washington's busiest in 12 years." The Washington Post.

- "Tesla replaces head of HR amid allegations of poor working conditions, harassment." BuzzFeed News.

THE COUNTDOWN: DOT appropriations run out in 129 days. The FAA reauthorization expires in 129 days. Highway and transit policy is up for renewal in 1,225 days.

To view online:
http://www.politico.com/tipsheets/morning-transportation/2017/05/25/when-can-we-expect-an-faa-bill-220513

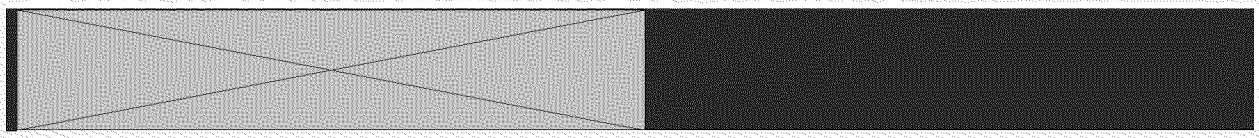
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Subject: [SPAM] Federal Insider: Will Trump's budget cut mail delivery? Plan revives contentious question.



Will Trump's budget cut mail delivery? Plan revives contentious question.

By Joe Davidson

President Trump is shown at the NATO summit in Brussels on May 25. (Etienne Laurent/EPA)

President Trump, with his well-crafted disrupter reputation, potentially could disrupt one self-funding service Americans directly use almost every day — mail delivery.

In the fiscal 2018 budget plan the Trump administration released this week, he reopened the divisive issue of cutting Saturday mail service. After a long and contentious effort, Republicans and Democrats, postal officials, postal unions and mass mailers managed to reach a compromise on postal reform with Saturday service intact.

But deep, very deep, in the budget's appendix is a line that says that "the budget proposes operational reforms to reduce costs and improve revenue, including … authority to reduce mail delivery frequency where there is a business case for doing so."

It could be easily overlooked, coming on page 1,207 of the 1,284-page document. But it has the potential to tear the scab off a wound that has been healing for more than a year.

For years, U.S. Postal Service officials insisted that moving to five-day mail delivery was a needed tonic to the chronic financial ailment that continues to afflict the agency. Unlike other parts of the government, USPS survives on the sale of goods and services, not tax dollars.

After repeated failed attempts to persuade Congress, former postmaster general Patrick R. Donahoe announced, in February 2013, unilateral action

ending Saturday mail delivery, except for packages, that August.

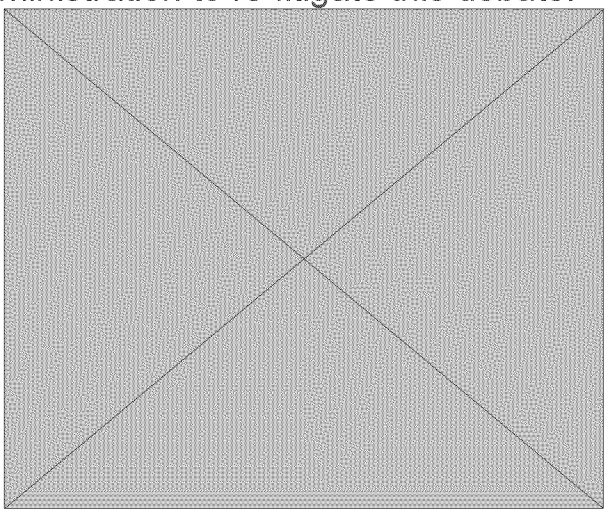
Postal unions and many members of Congress went ballistic. Harry M. Reid (Nev.), then the top Senate Democrat, said Donahoe had "damaged his reputation with congressional leaders." The National Rural Letter Carriers Association board voted unanimously for his dismissal.

Two months later, his unilateral plan was dead, but not the Postal Service's insistence that five-day delivery was crucial for financial health.

That turnaround came in January of last year, when a new postmaster general, Megan J. Brennan, made another plea to Congress for help. But this time, going to five-day delivery was not among her requests.

Dropping that was an important development in advancing reform legislation. The House Oversight and Government Reform Committee approved a bill in March with broad bipartisan support. It does not include elimination of Saturday delivery.

"Congress has made clear it would not support cutting mail delivery from six to five days, and for good reason. Eliminating a critical competitive advantage, Saturday mail delivery, would kick off a vicious cycle of increasing volume reductions, service standard degradation, and customer alienation," said Rep. Gerald E. Connolly (D-Va.), a co-sponsor of the Postal Service Reform Act of 2017. "We've finally got a postmaster general that understands that six-day delivery is an asset. It would be foolish for the Trump administration to re-litigate this debate."



Veteran GOP official on personnel policies named to

The Office of Management and Budget, the Postal Service and no Republican contacted would comment on the budget's postal provisions, but Sen. Claire McCaskill, the ranking Democrat on the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, did.

"Cutting the frequency or reliability of delivery is terrible for my state, especially in rural Missouri," she said, "where so many families and small businesses depend on their services for everything from their medications to Internet sales for their small business."

American Postal Workers Union President Mark Dimondstein said it is "widely accepted now that a reduction in delivery days would hurt the people of this country and the businesses of this country."

Meanwhile, regarding another part of the budget, OMB said Trump's plan to cut retirement programs for federal employees generally would save the government $148.9 billion over 10 years.

Uncle Sam's savings are individual employees' loss.

That comes to about $75,000 per employee, the National Federation of Federal Employees calculated. But averages like that are misleading, OMB warned, because "these proposals would impact individual employees and retirees differently."

Yet even the least affected don't want the hit under Trump's plan, despite its 1.9 percent federal pay raise and the six weeks of paid parental leave that would be available generally, not just for feds.

Referring to previous actions, including a three-year partial pay freeze and increased retirement contributions for new employees, Rep. Steny H. Hoyer (Md.), the second-ranking Democrat in the House, said that's "on top of the $182 billion [over 10 years] that federal employees, frankly, have had their pay and benefits reduced from what otherwise would have been current law."

During a telephone interview, he called the budget "draconian as it relates to federal employees."

"We're making federal employment less attractive, we're making retention more difficult and recruitment more difficult," he added. "I think this is a very negative proposal that we're going to fight very hard."

More from Federal Insider

He warned that while Trump's overall budget proposal might be dead on arrival on Capitol Hill, that doesn't necessarily apply to everything in the budget.

Will Congress approve the retirement hits?

"I hope not," Hoyer added.

Republicans "will talk about giving everybody a tax cut, except federal employees and federal employees they'll give a tax increase essentially, effectively, by reducing their take-home pay."

Read more:

[Trump's budget shows feds little love despite pay hike]

[Postal reform consensus develops; 5-day delivery dead]

[Reid says postmaster general 'damaged his reputation' with five-day mail-delivery plan]

head OPM

George Nesterczuk has been nominated to head the agency where he first worked during the Reagan administration.

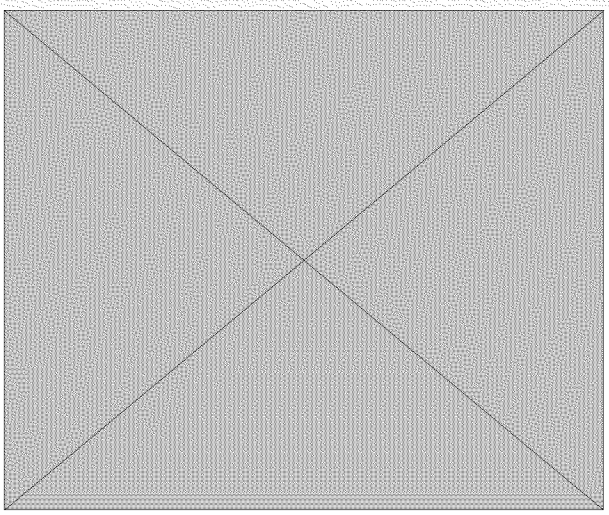
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Trump's budget shows feds little love despite pay hike

Here we examine his proposed undermining of retirement programs for middle-class workers who make up the federal workforce.

By Joe Davidson | Columnist • Read more »

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TRUMP'S EPA: Agency at a crossroads -- Complete coverage

June 6, 2017

Latest News

EPA's Novel Process For Speeding Review Of New Chemicals Draws Fire

EPA has adopted a novel approach for reviewing "new" chemicals before approving them for market, an approach intended to address the backlog that resulted from legislation reforming the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA), though some charge the agency's new approach will impose onerous reporting requirements on most new chemicals.

Environmentalists Challenge Methane NSPS Delay In First Test To EPA Rollback

Environmentalists are asking a federal appellate court to block EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt's administrative stay of several requirements from the Obama-era methane standards for new oil and gas sources -- a suit that marks the first legal test of a Trump EPA action to roll back or revise greenhouse gas regulations.

Supreme Court Urged To Reject Suit Over EPA Air Rule Waiver Prohibition

Environmentalists are urging the Supreme Court to reject a power supplier's call to hear a case challenging the agency's policy of prohibiting waivers from its boiler air toxics rule emissions limits during facility malfunctions, echoing EPA arguments that the policy is in line with appellate precedent and that the Clean Air Act bars any such waivers.

Chemical Sector, Labor At Odds Over EPA's Authority To Delay RMP Rule

Chemical and other industry organizations are sparring with labor groups are whether EPA has Clean Air Act authority for its delay of an Obama-era facility safety rule, with industry claiming the agency has "virtually unfettered discretion" for the move but labor arguing the air law's compliance mandates undermine the delay.

Environmentalists Attack 'Illegal' EPA Modeling Guidance For Air Permits

Environmentalists are attacking as "illegal" EPA's issuance of draft modeled emissions rates for "precursor" air pollutants that regulators will use to craft Clean Air

Act permits, claiming the approach is arbitrary and will fall short of an air law requirement for permit applicants to prove their projects will not violate federal air standards.

Nuclear Watchdog Group Asks EPA To Revoke Water Radiation Guide

A nuclear watchdog group is asking EPA to revoke a controversial drinking water guide for radiological emergencies issued by the agency on the last day of the Obama administration, arguing the guide was issued despite significant public opposition over its allowance of concentrations of radioactivity in emergencies that far exceed Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) limits.

Daily Feed

Trump to propose permit streamlining

The president's "infrastructure week" events will include a proposal to speed permitting.

McCarthy joins private equity firm

The former administrator is joining a sustainability-focused investment firm.

Quoted: Pruitt's Sunday talk show visits draw criticism

The accuracy of many of Pruitt's statements are being questioned.

Our most read: on rules to rollback and the climate-change exit

The week's top stories cover EPA's regulatory review process, Pruitt's first 100 days, Trump's decision to exit the Paris agreement and the Hudson River cleanup.

EPA again extends comment deadline on listing nPB as air toxic

EPA is extending from June 8 until Oct. 1 the deadline for comments on an Obama-era proposal to add n-propyl bromide to the list of air toxics regulated by the Clean Air Act.

Ewire: A daily news roundup

Pruitt defends Trump's Paris announcement on Sunday shows, underscoring his new prominence in the administration. Plus: More fallout from the president's decision.

Farm groups seeking rehearing of AFO air emissions ruling

Animal farming groups are pressing a federal appeals court to reverse its finding that animal feeding operations must report their air emissions under federal environmental laws.

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EHS Federal Regulatory Alert

May 25, 2017 - Number 100

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New Hampshire SIP/Permit Programs, Public Hearings, Infrastructure Requirements
AIR

Direct final rule of the EPA amends regulations under 40 CFR 52.1519 and 52.1520 to convert to full approval the EPA's Sept. 25, 2015, conditional approval of the New Hampshire's prevention of significant deterioration (PSD) and nonattainment new source review (NSR) permit programs (80 FR 57722). The rule also approves infrastructure SIP revisions that were conditionally approved by EPA (80 FR 78135, 12/16/2015; 81 FR 44542, 07/08/2016). In addition, the rule approves SIP revisions regarding public notice and hearing procedures for the state's nonattainment NSR, PSD and minor NSR permit programs; a revision that withdraws the state SIP's permit fee system; and a revision that addresses the good neighbor provisions of the infrastructure SIP for the 2010 nitrogen oxide NAAQS. Finally, the rule corrects amendatory instructions and a table entry for the 2010 sulfur dioxide NAAQS infrastructure SIP (82 FR 21123; 05/05/2017). The rule is effective July 24, 2017, unless adverse comments are received by June 26, 2107. Contact: Ida McDonnell; EPA Region 1, Air Permits, Toxics, and Indoor Programs Unit; 617-918-1653; McDonnell.Ida@epa.gov

82 FR 24057 (05/25/2017)

Regulatory Update

AIR
New Hampshire SIP/Permit Programs, Public Hearings, Infrastructure Requirements
AIR

Proposed rule of the EPA amends regulations under 40 CFR 52.1519 and 52.1520 to convert to full approval the EPA's Sept. 25, 2015, conditional approval of the New Hampshire's prevention of significant deterioration (PSD) and nonattainment new source review (NSR) permit programs (80 FR 57722). The rule also approves infrastructure SIP revisions that were conditionally approved by EPA (80 FR 78135, 12/16/2015; 81 FR 44542, 07/08/2016). In addition, the rule approves SIP revisions regarding public notice and hearing procedures for the state's nonattainment NSR, PSD and minor NSR permit programs; a revision that withdraws the state SIP's permit fee system; and

a revision that addresses the good neighbor provisions of the infrastructure SIP for the 2010 nitrogen oxide NAAQS. Finally, the rule corrects amendatory instructions and a table entry for the 2010 sulfur dioxide NAAQS infrastructure SIP (82 FR 21123; 05/05/2017). A concurrent direct final rule adopts the revisions, effective July 24, 2017. Comments are due June 26, 2107. Contact: Ida McDonnell; EPA Region 1, Air Permits, Toxics, and Indoor Programs Unit; 617-918-1653; McDonnell.Ida@epa.gov

82 FR 24085 (05/25/2017)

Regulatory Update

ENDANGERED SPECIES
Fish and Wildlife Permit Applications and Reports
ENDANGERED SPECIES

Notice of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announces the submission of a revised information collection request to the OMB regarding numerous fish and wildlife application and reporting requirements. The collection addresses requirements related to permit applications and reports under 50 CFR 12 through 18, 21 and 23; requirements regarding renewal of CITES registration of commercial breeding operations for certain wildlife and other CITES requirements under 50 CFR 17 and 23; and requirements regarding the import of sport-hunted African elephant trophies under 50 CFR 17. The collection combines into a single collection three separate, previously approved collections. Comments are due June 26, 2017. Contact: Madonna Baucum; USFWS; 703-358-2503; info_coll @fws.gov

82 FR 24139 (05/25/2017)

Regulatory Update

FOOD SAFETY
Pesticide Residues in Food Recordkeeping and Reporting
FOOD SAFETY

Notice announces the intention of the Food and Drug Administration to seek OMB approval for a continuing information collection request regarding channels of trade policy for commodities with residues of pesticide chemicals for which tolerances have been revoked, suspended or modified by the EPA due to dietary risk considerations. The collection addresses documentation required to be maintained by parties responsible for food found to contain pesticide chemical residues after the tolerance for the pesticide chemical has been revoked, suspended or modified to demonstrate that such food was handled during the acceptable time frames cited in FDA guidance (76 FR 66072; 10/25/2011). Such documentation may include packing codes, batch records and inventory records, but each party has discretion to maintain appropriate documentation. Comments are due July 24, 2017. Contact: Ila Mizrachi; FDA, Office of Operations; 301-796-7726; PRAStaff@fda.hhs.gov

82 FR 24133 (05/25/2017)

Regulatory Update

FOOD SAFETY
Prior Notice of Imported Food

FOOD SAFETY

Notice of the Food and Drug Administration announces the submission of a revised information collection request to the OMB regarding notice to the agency prior to importing or offering to import human or animal food into the U.S. (21 CFR 1.278 through 1.285). The collection facilitates initial agency reviews and appeals for articles that the agency has refused to admit or placed under a hold. The revisions require applications to list any prior import refusals of the product by other countries. Comments are due June 26, 2017. Contact: FDA, Office of Operations; 888-463-6332; PRAStaff@fda.hhs.gov

82 FR 24131 (05/25/2017)

Regulatory Update

GENERAL ENVIRONMENT AND SAFETY
Alabama Trustee Implementation Group for the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill
GENERAL ENVIRONMENT AND SAFETY

Notice of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration announces the record of decision for the Deepwater Horizon oil spill Alabama Trustee Implementation Group's final recreational use restoration plan I and final environmental impact statement (RP/EIS). The document sets forth the basis for selection of six restoration project alternatives to compensate the public for lost recreational use opportunities in Alabama caused by the oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico. Contact: Dan Van Norstrand; NOAA; 251-544-5015; ALTIG.RecUsePlanComments@noaa.gov

82 FR 24107 (05/25/2017)

Regulatory Update

GENERAL ENVIRONMENT AND SAFETY
EPA Board of Scientific Counselors Nominations
GENERAL ENVIRONMENT AND SAFETY

Notice of the EPA announces a request for nominations of individuals to serve on the Office of Research and Development's Board of Scientific Counselors. The notice requests nominees that are experts in various fields, including climate and global change; engineering, including drinking water treatment, wastewater treatment, stormwater treatment and management, water reuse and water infrastructure; public health; watershed management; and toxicology. Nominations are due July 21, 2017. Contact: Tom Tracy; EPA, Office of Research and Development; 202-564-6518; tracy.tom@epa.gov

82 FR 24120 (05/25/2017)

Regulatory Update

GENERAL ENVIRONMENT AND SAFETY
FDA Approved Information Collection Requests
GENERAL ENVIRONMENT AND SAFETY

Notice of the Food and Drug Administration announces the approval of 10 information collection

requests by the OMB. The collections address importer's entry notice, substances used in food-contact articles, and restrictions on cigarettes and smokeless tobacco. The collections also address postmarket surveillance of medical devices, review of premarket applications, Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments and requirements under the Comprehensive Smokeless Tobacco Health Education Act. In addition, the collections address tobacco retailer training programs, animation in direct-to-consumer advertising and electronic drug reporting for human drug compounding outsourcing facilities. Contact: Ila Mizrachi; FDA; 301-796-7726; PRAStaff@fda.hhs.gov

82 FR 24136 (05/25/2017)

Regulatory Update

GENERAL ENVIRONMENT AND SAFETY
FDA Approved Information Collection Requests
GENERAL ENVIRONMENT AND SAFETY

Notice of the Food and Drug Administration announces the approval of eight information collection requests by the OMB. The collections address processing and importation of fish and fishery products, designation of new animal drugs and animal feed program standards. The collections also address biological products, device identification, premarket approval of medical devices and requirements for human tissue for implantation. Contact: Ila Mizrachi; FDA, Office of Operations; 301-796-7726; PRAStaff@fda.hhs.gov

82 FR 24130 (05/25/2017)

Regulatory Update

GENERAL ENVIRONMENT AND SAFETY
TVA Regional Resource Stewardship Council Meeting
GENERAL ENVIRONMENT AND SAFETY

Notice of the Tennessee Valley Authority announces a meeting of the Regional Resource Stewardship Council. The agenda includes updates on natural resources and river management issues and presentations concerning the economic benefits of TVA management of public land and water. The meeting is scheduled for June 6-7, 2017, in Knoxville, Tenn. Comments are requested, but a due date is not specified. Contact: Barbie Perdue; TVA; 865-632-6113

82 FR 24202 (05/25/2017)

Regulatory Update

OIL AND GAS INDUSTRY
Montana, Wyoming/Express Pipeline Presidential Permit
OIL AND GAS INDUSTRY

Notice of the Department of State announces the receipt of a notice from Enbridge Inc., of Calgary, regarding its acquisition of entities that own Express Pipeline LLC, which owns, operates and maintains the Express Pipeline under a presidential permit (80 FR 45695; 07/31/2015). The pipeline is a 786-mile crude oil pipeline that crosses the U.S.-Canada border near Wild Horse, Mont., and terminates near Casper, Wyo. The notice specifies that environmental

analysis will not be conducted unless information that the transfer potentially would have a significant impact on the quality of the human environment is presented. Comments are due June 26, 2017. Contact: Marcus Lee; Department of State, Bureau of Energy Resources; 202-647-2041

82 FR 24200 (05/25/2017)

Regulatory Update

OIL AND GAS INDUSTRY
USEITI MSG Advisory Committee Meeting
OIL AND GAS INDUSTRY

Notice of the Department of the Interior, Office of the Secretary, announces the postponement of one of three previously scheduled meetings of the U.S. Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative Advisory Committee (81 FR 96032; 12/29/2016). The meeting, originally scheduled for June 7-8, 2017, in Washington, D.C., will be rescheduled at a later date. Contact: Judith Wilson; USEITI; 202-208-0272; useiti@ios.doi.gov

82 FR 24141 (05/25/2017)

Regulatory Update

PESTICIDES
Environmental Modeling Meeting
PESTICIDES

Notice of the EPA announces an environmental modeling meeting relating to modeling pesticide fate, transport and exposure for pesticide risk assessments. The tentative agenda includes discussion of evidence of subsurface metabolism in groundwater, methods for measuring subsurface metabolism, and how to parameterize models to account for subsurface metabolism. The meeting is scheduled for June 28, 2017, in Arlington, Va. Contact: Stephen Wente; EPA, Office of Pesticide Programs; 703-305-0001; wente.stephen@epa.gov

82 FR 24119 (05/25/2017)

Regulatory Update

PESTICIDES
Neonicotinoid Risk Assessments
PESTICIDES

Notice of the EPA announces the availability of the aquatic ecological assessment for imidacloprid, the combined preliminary pollinator risk assessment for clothianidin and thiamethoxam, and the draft bee assessment for dinotefuran. The notice also announces the availability of the agency's registration review update for four neonicotinoid insecticides and a summary document that responds to comments on the preliminary pollinator assessment for imidacloprid (81 FR 2212; 01/15/2016). Comments are due July 24, 2017. Contact: Richard Dumas; EPA, Office of Pesticide Programs; 703-308-8015; dumas.richard@epa.gov

82 FR 24113 (05/25/2017)

Regulatory Update

PESTICIDES
Pesticide Registration Review Interim Decisions
PESTICIDES

Notice of the EPA announces the availability of interim registration review decisions for eight pesticides and revision of the interim registration review decision for maleic hydrazide. The new interim decisions address 2-(decylthio)ethanamine hydrochloride, DTEA-HCl; aliphatic alcohols, C1-C5; bentazon; chlorfenapyr; propoxur; propoxycarbazone-sodium; sodium acifluorfen; and thidiazuron. Contact: Richard Dumas; EPA, Office of Pesticide Programs; 703-308-8015; dumas.richard @epa.gov

82 FR 24116 (05/25/2017)

Regulatory Update

PESTICIDES
Pesticide Registration Review Interim Decisions
PESTICIDES

Notice of the EPA announces the availability of proposed interim registration review decisions for 10 pesticides under 40 CFR 155.58. The 10 pesticides are boric acid/sodium salts, clethodim, diquat dibromide, ethephon, fenitrothion, hexazinone, hymexazol, methoxyfenozide, pronamide and trimedlure. Comments are due July 24, 2017. Contact: Richard Dumas; EPA, Office of Pesticide Programs; 703-308-8015; dumas.richard@epa.gov

82 FR 24122 (05/25/2017)

Regulatory Update

PESTICIDES
Pesticide Registration Review Interim Decisions
PESTICIDES

Notice of the EPA announces the availability of proposed interim registration review decisions for six pesticides. The interim decisions address aldicarb, azoxystrobin, bifenazate, chlorpyrifos-methyl, ethalfluralin and pirimiphos-methyl. Comments are due July 24, 2017. Contact: Richard Dumas; EPA, Office of Pesticide Programs; 703-308-8015; dumas.richard@epa.gov

82 FR 24112 (05/25/2017)

Regulatory Update

PESTICIDES
Pesticide Registration Review Interim Decisions, Case Closures
PESTICIDES

Notice of the EPA announces the availability of interim registration review decisions for eight pesticides and the closure of registration review cases for two pesticides. The interim decisions

address antimycin, Busan 74, flufenacet, flurprimidol, fosamine ammonium, glufosinate, lithium hypochlorite and tebufenozide. The closed registration review cases addressed disodium cyanodithioimidocarbonate and decyl-isononyl dimethyl ammonium chloride (DIDAC), and the closure is due to the cancellation of all registrations in the U.S. Contact: Richard Dumas; EPA, Office of Pesticide Programs; 703-308-8015; dumas.richard@epa.gov

82 FR 24123 (05/25/2017)

Regulatory Update

PESTICIDES
Pesticide Registration Review/Draft Risk Assessments
PESTICIDES

Notice of the EPA announces the availability of draft human health and ecological risk assessments for the registration review of chlorethoxyfos and draft human health risk assessments for the registration review of diazinon and phosmet. The phosmet draft risk assessment is being reissued due to a docketing error in a prior notice (81 FR 85952; 11/29/2016). Comments are due July 24, 2017. Contact: Richard Dumas; EPA, Office of Pesticide Programs; 703-308-8015; dumas.richard@epa.gov

82 FR 24114 (05/25/2017)

Regulatory Update

PESTICIDES
Pesticide Registration Review/Tetrachlorvinphos
PESTICIDES

Notice of the EPA announces the availability of draft human health and ecological risk assessments for registration review of several pesticides and the final occupational and residential exposure assessment for the registration review of the organophosphate insecticide tetrachlorvinphos (TCVP). The notice addresses the draft human health and ecological risk assessments for registration review of bromacil, cyprodinil, and propamocarb; the draft human health risk assessment for the registration review of cyphenothrin; and the draft ecological risk assessment for the registration review of 2,4-D. The notice also specifies the EPA's explanation for relying on TCVP data from human research on TCVP exposure from pet collars. Comments on the draft assessments are due July 24, 2017. Contact: Richard Dumas; EPA, Office of Pesticide Programs; 703-308-8015; dumas.richard@epa.gov

82 FR 24117 (05/25/2017)

Regulatory Update

PESTICIDES
Pesticide Tolerance/Flazasulfuron
PESTICIDES

Final rule of the EPA amends regulations under 40 CFR 180.655 to establish a tolerance for residues of the herbicide flazasulfuron in or on olives at 0.01 parts per million. The rule is issued in response to a petition filed by ISK Biosciences Corp., of Concord, Ohio. The rule is effective

May 25, 2017. Objections and hearing requests are due July 24, 2017. Contact: Michael Goodis; EPA, Office of Pesticide Programs; 703-305-7090; RDFRNotices@epa.gov

82 FR 24062 (05/25/2017)

Regulatory Update

PESTICIDES
Pesticide Tolerance/Isopyrazam
PESTICIDES

Final rule of the EPA amends regulations under 40 CFR 180.654 to establish a tolerance for residues of the fungicide isopyrazam in or on bell peppers at 0.5 parts per million (ppm); tomatoes at 0.5 ppm; and the cucurbit subgroup 9A at 0.3 ppm. The rule is issued in response to a petition filed by Syngenta Crop Protection LLC, of Greensboro, N.C. The rule is effective May 25, 2017. Objections and hearing requests are due July 24, 2017. Contact: Michael Goodis; EPA, Office of Pesticide Programs; 703-305-7090; RDFRNotices@epa.gov

82 FR 24071 (05/25/2017)

Regulatory Update

PESTICIDES
Pesticide Tolerances/Fenazaquin
PESTICIDES

Final rule of the EPA amends regulations under 40 CFR 180.632 to establish tolerances for residues of the miticide/insecticide fenazaquin in or on hops at 30 parts per million (ppm); nut, tree group 14-12 at 0.02 ppm; pineapple at 0.2 ppm; and tea at 9 ppm. The rule also removes the existing tolerance for almond at 0.2 ppm due to the establishment of the tolerance for nut, tree group 14-12. The rule is issued in response to petitions from Gowan Co., of Yuma, Ariz. The rule is effective May 25, 2017. Objections and hearing requests are due July 24, 2017. Contact: Michael Goodis; EPA, Office of Pesticide Programs; 703-305-7090; RDFRNotices@epa.gov

82 FR 24067 (05/25/2017)

Regulatory Update

RADIATION
ACRS Planning and Procedures Subcommittee Meeting
RADIATION

Notice of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission announces a meeting of the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards Subcommittee on Planning and Procedures to discuss proposed ACRS activities and related matters. The meeting is scheduled for June 6, 2017, in Rockville, Md. Comments are due June 6, 2017. Contact: Quynh Nguyen; NRC; 301-415-5844; Quynh.Nguyen@nrc.gov

82 FR 24168 (05/25/2017)

Regulatory Update

TOXIC SUBSTANCES

National Toxicology Program Board of Scientific Counselors Meeting

TOXIC SUBSTANCES

Notice of the National Institutes of Health announces amendments to a May 2, 2017, notice (82 FR 20484) regarding a meeting of the National Toxicology Program (NTP) Board of Scientific Counselors. The agenda includes updates on programmatic activities, including issues related to studying mixtures, an evaluation of the zebrafish model for toxicology, a state of the science evaluation of transgenerational inheritance of health effects, and the new Integrated Chemical Environment database. The agenda also includes discussion of the Interagency Coordinating Committee on the Validation of Alternative Methods' (ICCVAM) activities regarding new approaches in evaluating the safety of chemicals and medical products in the U.S. The current action specifies that the agenda has been updated to include reports from agency directors and presentations on NTP efforts and challenges toward studying real world exposures. The meeting is scheduled for June 29, 2017, in Research Triangle Park, N.C., and via webcast. Contact: Mary Wolfe; NIH, National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences; 919-541-7539; wolfe@niehs.nih.gov

82 FR 24136 (05/25/2017)

Regulatory Update

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EHS Federal Regulatory Alert

To: Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
From: Bloomberg BNA
Sent: Thur 5/25/2017 12:30:10 PM
Subject: [SPAM] May 25 -- EHS State Regulatory Alert

EHS State Regulatory Alert

May 25, 2017 - Number 100

You can create a report customized by topic, jurisdiction, and date range by using the Regulatory Summaries Report Tool. The report can be generated in Excel, Word, or PDF.

Colorado

AIR
Motor Vehicle Emissions Inspection Program
Colorado AIR

Proposed rule of the Department of Public Health and Environment, Air Quality Control Commission, amends regulations under 5 CCR 1001-13, Regulation 11, regarding the motor vehicle emissions inspection program. The rule removes the requirement that the IM 240 test be the sole data used to develop a clean screen low-emitting vehicle index and allows the on-board diagnostic (OBD) test data collected from newer vehicles also to be used to develop the low-emitting vehicle index. The rule also addresses readiness requirements for Envirotest public lanes and self-inspecting vehicle fleets and removes readiness language from OBD inspection passing criteria to clarify that readiness is a determinant of whether or not a vehicle will undergo an OBD inspection. In addition, the rule clarifies that the IM 240 test conducted on 5 percent of OBD-tested vehicles is the pass/fail determinant for those vehicles and addresses OBD test procedures where tampering is detected. A hearing is scheduled for Aug. 17, 2017, in Denver. Various deadlines and prehearing conference dates are specified for those seeking party status. Comments are due July 31, 2017. Contact: Doug Decker; DPHE; Air Quality Control Commission; 303-692-3126; doug.decker@state.co.us

—Colorado Register (05/22/2017)

Regulatory Update

Illinois

OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH
Industrial Hygienists
Illinois OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH

Proposed rule of the Illinois EPA repeals regulations under 35 IAC 184.100 through .600 regarding licensing of industrial hygienists. The rule deletes provisions concerning applicability, the Industrial Hygiene Examining Board, application requirements, licensure, fees and reciprocity. Comments are due June 3, 2017. Contact: Sara Terranova; IEPA; 217-782-5544; sara.terranova@illinois.gov

—Illinois Register (05/19/2017)

Regulatory Update

SOLID WASTE
Medication Takeback Program
Illinois SOLID WASTE

Proposed rule of the Illinois EPA adopts regulations under 35 IAC 889.100 through .220 to establish the medication takeback program. The rule sets forth the application process for individuals that seek disposal of pharmaceutical products at takeback locations and specifies that the agency may provide for the disposal of pharmaceutical products accepted at one or more medication takeback locations and that the agency will review applications. The rule also specifies operating requirements for takeback locations, recordkeeping and operator termination. Comments are due June 3, 2017. Contact: Sara Terranova; IEPA; 217-782-5544; sara.terranova@illinois.gov

—Illinois Register (05/19/2017)

Regulatory Update

Minnesota

OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH
Occupational Safety and Health Standards/Fall Protection Systems
Minnesota OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH

Proposed exempt rule of the Department of Labor and Industry, Occupational Safety and Health Division, adopts regulations under MNR 5205.0010 to incorporate by reference Nov. 18, 2016, federal standards under 29 CFR 1910 concerning general industry standards on walking-working surfaces and personal protective equipment. The rule addresses fixed ladders; rope descent systems; fall protection systems and criteria, including personal fall protection systems; and training on fall hazards and fall protection systems. The rule also adds requirements concerning design, performance and use of personal fall protection systems. Comments are due June 21, 2017. Contact: Ken Peterson; DLI, Occupational Safety and Health Division; 651-284-5235

—Minnesota State Register (05/22/2017)

Regulatory Update

Virginia

AIR
Permits for Stationary Sources
Virginia AIR

Proposed rule of the Department of Environmental Quality, Air Pollution Control Board, amends regulations under 9 VAC 5-80-320 through -2340 (nonconsecutive) and adopts regulations under 9 VAC 5-80-342, -2282 and -2342 to increase Title V stationary source permit fees. The rule revises the permit program emissions fee calculation methodology by specifying increases of 18.6 and 15 percent for 2018 and 2019 and a calculation based on consumer price index (CPI) adjustments for billing years after 2019. The rule also provides that base permit application fees for 2019 are 10 percent more than the previous calendar year and are otherwise calculated based on CPI adjustments. In addition, the rule provides that base permit maintenance fee adjustments are based on CPI adjustments, except as specified for certain sources for billing years 2019 and 2020, and adds a new minimum permit maintenance fee for synthetic minor sources. Finally, the rule excludes greenhouse gases from the calculation of permit program emissions fees and adds and revises definitions. A hearing is scheduled for July 6, 2017, in Richmond. Comments are due July 28, 2017. Contact: Gary Graham; DEQ; 804-698-4103; gary.graham@deq.virginia.gov

—Virginia Register (05/29/2017)

Regulatory Update

GENERAL ENVIRONMENT AND SAFETY
Small Renewable Energy Projects Permit-by-Rule/Combustion
Virginia GENERAL ENVIRONMENT AND SAFETY

Final rule of the Department of Environmental Quality amends regulations under 9 VAC 15-70-10 and -30 regarding permit-by-rule for small renewable combustion energy projects. The rule revises the definition of "small renewable energy project" and adds certification requirements. The rule also provides that any project beginning operation after July 1, 2017, is eligible for combustion permit-by-rule and exempt from commission environmental review if the project is proposed, developed, constructed or purchased by a public utility and costs are not recovered from state customers under base rates, a fuel factor charge or a rate adjustment clause or by a specified utility aggregation cooperative. The rule is effective July 1, 2017. Contact: Mary Major; DEQ; 804-698-4423; mary.major@deq.virginia.gov

—Virginia Register (05/29/2017)

Regulatory Update

GENERAL ENVIRONMENT AND SAFETY
Small Renewable Energy Projects Permit-by-Rule/Solar
Virginia GENERAL ENVIRONMENT AND SAFETY

Final rule of the Department of Environmental Quality amends regulations under 9 VAC 15-60-10, -20, -30 and -110 regarding permit-by-rule for small renewable solar energy projects. The rule increases the maximum size of a small renewable solar energy project from 100 to 150 megawatts and adds certification requirements. The rule also provides that any project beginning operation after July 1, 2017, is eligible for solar permit-by-rule and exempt from commission environmental review if the project is proposed, developed, constructed or purchased by a public utility and costs are not recovered from state customers under base rates or by a specified utility

aggregation cooperative. The rule is effective July 1, 2017. Contact: Mary Major; DEQ; 804-698-4423; mary.major@deq.virginia.gov

—Virginia Register (05/29/2017)

Regulatory Update

GENERAL ENVIRONMENT AND SAFETY
Small Renewable Energy Projects Permit-by-Rule/Wind
Virginia GENERAL ENVIRONMENT AND SAFETY

Final rule of the Department of Environmental Quality amends regulations under 9 VAC 15-40-10, -20 and -30 regarding permit-by-rule for small renewable wind energy projects. The rule increases the maximum size of a small renewable wind energy project from 100 to 150 megawatts and adds certification requirements. The rule also provides that any project beginning operation after July 1, 2017, is eligible for wind permit-by-rule and exempt from State Corporation Commission environmental review if the project is proposed, developed, constructed or purchased by a public utility and costs are not recovered from state customers under base rates or by a specified utility aggregation cooperative. The rule is effective July 1, 2017. Contact: Mary Major; DEQ; 804-698-4423; mary.major@deq.virginia.gov

—Virginia Register (05/29/2017)

Regulatory Update

OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH
Master-Metered Natural Gas and Intrastate Hazardous Liquids Pipeline Systems
Virginia OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH

Final rule of the State Corporation Commission amends regulations under 20 VAC 5-307-10 and -308-10 regarding the safety of master-metered natural gas and intrastate hazardous liquid pipeline systems. The rule corrects the telephone number for the commission's manager of gas pipeline safety. The rule is effective May 29, 2017. Contact: Angela Bowser; SCC, Division of Information Resources; 804-371-9142; angela.bowser@scc.virginia.gov

—Virginia Register (05/29/2017)

Regulatory Update

RADIATION
Radiation Protection Regulations/Fee Schedule
Virginia RADIATION

Notice announces the intention of the Department of Health, State Board of Health, to amend regulations under 12 VAC 5-490 regarding the fee schedule for the radiation protection standards. The rule increases fees for the X-Ray Program for device registrations and inspections and for the Radioactive Materials Program for initial licensure and annual license renewal. Comments are due June 28, 2017. Contact: Steve Harrison; DOH, Division of Radiological Health; 804-864-8151; steve.harrison@vdh.virginia.gov

—Virginia Register (05/29/2017)

Regulatory Update

WATER
Alternative On-Site Sewage Systems
Virginia WATER

Proposed rule of the Department of Health, State Board of Health, amends regulations under 12 VAC 5-613-10 and -90 regarding performance, operation and maintenance requirements for alternative on-site sewage systems. The rule revises the definition of "direct dispersal of effluent to ground water" to clarify that excavation excludes a pre-existing soil disturbance not designed to create a direct conduit or preferential path to groundwater. The rule also adds performance requirements for repairs or voluntarily upgrades to sewer systems that already disperse to groundwater and specifies that systems designed to meet the requirements constructed after Dec. 7, 2013, are not eligible for the new performance and sampling requirements. The rule, which is proposed for fast-track processing, is proposed to be effective July 17, 2017. Comments are due June 28, 2017. Contact: Allen Knapp; DOH, Office of Environmental Health Services; 804-864-7458; allen.knapp@vdh.virginia.gov

—Virginia Register (05/29/2017)

Regulatory Update

West Virginia

OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH
Proximity Detection Systems and Haulage Safety
West Virginia OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH

Final rule of the Board of Coal Mine Health and Safety adopts regulations under 36 WVCSR 57 regarding proximity detection systems and haulage safety. The rule establishes requirements for proximity detection systems on newly purchased place-change continuous miners, rebuilt place-change miners, and existing place-change continuous miners and requires cameras or proximity detection systems on scoop cars and battery-powered section haulage equipment by Sept. 1, 2017. The rule also requires the agency to visit each mine and host regional workshops within six months to discuss new requirements and disseminate information on proximity devices and the use of cameras on underground equipment. In addition, the rule sets forth requirements for equipment operators; requires a minimum of 100 square inches of reflective or highly visible clothing be worn by underground employees; establishes a designated work site program; and requires mine operators to conduct briefings with mine personnel within 15 days of receipt of rules. Finally, the rule requires the agency director to seek approval of extended-cut mining plans with the Mine Safety and Health Administration to reduce occurrences of underground haulage safety concerns. The rule, which was adopted with changes, is effective May 22, 2017. Contact: BCMHS; 304-957-2306

—West Virginia Register (05/22/2017)

Regulatory Update

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EHS State Regulatory Alert

To: Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
From: Morning Transportation
Sent: Fri 5/26/2017 2:14:09 PM
Subject: POLITICO's Morning Transportation: Airlines buckle up for electronics ban expansion — Graves awaiting more infrastructure deets beyond budget — FRA: Some may miss certain PTC deadline

By Tanya Snyder and Brianna Gurciullo | 05/26/2017 10:00 AM EDT

With help from Lauren Gardner, Stephanie Beasley and Kathryn A. Wolfe

FASTEN YOUR SEAT BELTS: U.S. airlines think the Trump administration could announce any day now that its electronics ban will apply to airports in Europe and possibly elsewhere. Airline industry sources told our Kathryn A. Wolfe and Stephanie Beasley that they are preparing should the decision come at any moment. But a different source said the agency was "still doing stakeholder meetings" on Thursday and the roll-out probably won't happen until President Donald Trump is back on U.S. soil.

The implications: An expanded order banning electronics like laptops and tablets from the cabins of flights bound for the United States would breed further tensions between U.S. and European officials, as leaders in Europe have expressed frustration over what they've described as a lack of communication from the U.S. side. It's also guaranteed to trouble the travel industry and pose logistical challenges for airlines of all stripes.

Word from the top: On Thursday, Homeland Security Secretary John Kelly told lawmakers at an appropriations hearing that airlines and others have been pushing DHS not to extend the ban to more airports. "They're willing to do anything not to have me do some of the things that we're contemplating," Kelly said. He said he hadn't come to a final decision by the time of that hearing, but he made clear that it remains under consideration.

So what's the hold up? The risk of terrorists concealing bombs in electronics has to be weighed against the risk posed by stowing highly flammable lithium batteries in cargo holds. Kelly told airports on a conference call this week that learning more about the battery risk would help him make up his mind. On the same call, airport officials said DHS should zero in "on risk-based, multi-layered measures" - focused on travelers deemed to be high risk - "which could be implemented at the last point of departure airports instead of a wholesale ban on electronics," a source briefed on the matter told Steph.

HAPPY FRIDAY: Thanks for tuning in to POLITICO's Morning Transportation, your daily tipsheet on all things trains, planes, automobiles and ports. We are your MT hosts today, so please send tips, feedback and lyrics to tsnyder@politico.com or @TSnyderDC and bgurciullo@politico.com or @brigurciullo.

"Standin' at the crossroad, I tried to flag a ride / Standin' at the crossroad, I tried to flag a ride / Didn't nobody seem to know me, everybody pass me by."

Want to keep up with MT's song picks? Follow our Spotify playlist.

PROGRAMMING NOTE - Due to the Memorial Day holiday, Morning Transportation will not publish on Monday, May 29. Our next Morning Transportation will publish on Tuesday, May 30. Please continue to follow Pro Transportation issues here.

MEET THE NEW PEGGY: Welcome Ali Bahrami, who will assume the role vacated by Peggy Gilligan as the head of the FAA's Aviation Safety division. Bahrami formerly headed the FAA's Seattle office, before decamping for a position at the Aerospace Industries Association.

STAY TUNED? The infrastructure fact sheet OMB released Tuesday may not be the administration's last word on the matter. Rep. Sam Graves (R-Mo.) said Thursday that he "absolutely" expects more details later this month or "maybe the first part of June."

GETTING TO YES: Graves was one of just two Republicans to vote against the FAA bill when it was marked up in committee last year, and it could happen again if Chairman Bill Shuster (R-Pa.) doesn't include some protections for the general aviation community in the next iteration of his air traffic control overhaul proposal. "We're talking, seeing if we can get someplace," Graves said Thursday. "I don't know if we can or not. But we're trying." He noted that he still has "lots" of concerns about Shuster's plan, but that it comes down to "protecting the airspace for everybody that uses it." He added that he and Shuster "are good friends anyway, so that makes it easier."

RSAC IT TO ME: FRA's Railroad Safety Advisory Committee met Thursday for the first time since the election. They reached consensus on a proposal to update hazardous materials transport rules and provided an update on positive train control implementation (tl;dr: It's not great). But the agency was a bit limited in offering more regulatory updates, given DOT's plodding pace in filling out political staff (though Christopher Hess was mentioned as FRA's director of government affairs) and Trump's orders calling for a mass review and culling of federal rules.

A scoop of PTC, please: FRA chief safety officer Bob Lauby said the agency expects that some passenger railroads won't be able to access the two-year additional grace period for meeting the PTC implementation deadline because they won't have hit enough benchmarks, our Lauren Gardner scooped for Pros. The agency maintains an online dashboard showing each railroad's implementation status - and there are several that had made little to no progress as of the end of 2016.

What's next: While it's unclear what would happen to those lines, remember that as railroads teetered on the brink of missing the last deadline in 2015, there was much discussion about whether they'd have to drastically - or completely - cut service to avoid the liability of operating in contravention of the mandate. As for commuter railroads in particular, lawmakers this week began announcing lines in their districts that were recently awarded a portion of $199 million in PTC implementation grant money that Congress included in the fiscal 2017 omnibus.

TAKING A FRESH LOOK: FRA is tweaking an upcoming proposed rule that would mandate both inward-facing and outward-facing cameras on passenger trains, as well as a pending final rule requiring, generally speaking, that at least two crew members staff all trains. The alterations come amid the administration's focus on cost-benefit studies of new regulations, as Lauren

reports for Pros. For example, Lauby said the camera rule likely won't include freight rail because "the cost-benefit analysis goes very negative and causes other issues." As for the crew rule, it will undergo a months-long review to consider "different changes that could be made to make the rule more acceptable both to the current administration and in response to some of the different comments that we have," Lauby said.

THE LATEST ON TRAVEL BAN 2.0: "President Donald Trump's revised travel ban executive order suffered another legal defeat Thursday, prompting the administration to vow an appeal to the Supreme Court," POLITICO's Josh Gerstein reports. "In a 10-3 vote that broke essentially along party lines, judges of the Richmond-based 4th Circuit Court of Appeals refused to disturb a lower court ruling that halted Trump's plan to deny visas to citizens of six majority-Muslim countries. Chief Judge Roger Gregory said in the court's majority opinion that the order was unconstitutional because it was deeply imbued with bias against Muslims - hostility the court identified as a staple of Trump's campaign trail rhetoric."

PROBS NOT GONNA HAPPEN: Sen. John Boozman (R-Ark.) on Thursday dumped on the White House budget request that TSA's passenger security fee increase from $5.60 to $6.60, saying the budget "failed to take into consideration any practical realities" and noted that it puts his Senate Appropriations panel in a "tough position." As Steph reports for Pros, the administration says revenue from the fee hike would pay for a good part of its TSA request.

Got your back: At the same hearing, Kelly defended the White House's recommendation that TSA officers no longer man exit lanes. "[Officers'] skills and expertise are not being put to good use while staffing airport exit lanes, and this is a waste of taxpayer dollars," Kelly said in his written testimony, adding that TSA could put 629 additional officers (or more) at security checkpoints if they were taken off exit lanes.

DO DRONES YOUR WAY: A bipartisan quartet of senators introduced a bill Thursday to allow for more local control of drones. That includes allowing communities to "create low-speed altitude limits, local no-drone zones or rules that are appropriate to their own circumstances," said Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.) in a statement. While recognizing FAA's authority, the bill allows state, local and tribal governments to set their own restrictions on drone operations and encourages the testing of different approaches, in partnership with the FAA. Sens. Mike Lee (R-Utah), Richard Blumenthal (D-Conn.) and Tom Cotton (R-Ark.) are also sponsors of the bill.

AUTOMAKERS NERVOUS ABOUT NAFTA REBOOT: Automakers are urging Trump "not to make any changes to NAFTA that would jeopardize production ties with Canada and Mexico that have been built up over the last 25 years," Pro Trade's Doug Palmer reports. The companies are "performing at levels that really haven't been seen in decades," said Charles Uthus, the vice president for international policy at the American Automotive Policy Council, and he credits NAFTA for a large part of that success. Uthus fears that raising tariffs "would reduce the overall competitiveness of the North American region," Doug writes. Auto parts manufacturers also say NAFTA has been good for them and they don't want to "upset the supply chain."

WHAT'S SEPTEMBER WITHOUT A SHUTDOWN THREAT? With the House four

months behind schedule on appropriations and facing uphill battles over taxes and health care, Republican leaders are already starting to worry about a possible shutdown this fall, POLITICO's Rachael Bade and John Bresnahan report. GOP leaders are also worried about getting the votes they'd need to raise spending caps to accommodate Trump's defense spending request. With the calendar so full and Trump's continued missteps eroding his political capital and emboldening Democrats, a third-quarter infrastructure bill could be a stretch.

MORE THAN HALF THE SENATE WANTS CUBA TRAVEL: Led by Sens. Jeff Flake (R-Ariz.) and Patrick Leahy (D-Vt.), a bipartisan group of 55 senators reintroduced a bill that would eliminate restrictions on U.S. tourist travel to Cuba. The bill had just eight co-sponsors when it was introduced in the last Congress. This version comes as the travel community awaits Trump's decision about whether he will maintain President Barack Obama's policy of opening diplomatic and travel ties with Cuba or whether he will return to a more hard-line approach against the Cuban government.

PRECHECK YOURSELF BEFORE YOU PREWRECK YOURSELF: PreCheck is expanding to include seven new carriers: Copa Airlines, Dominican Wings, InterCaribbean Airways, Silver Airways, Singapore Airlines, Swift Air and Turkish Airlines. That brings the total to 37 carriers that participate in the program, which is available in 180 U.S. airports.

MT MAILBAG: California Rep. Duncan Hunter , the chairman of the House Transportation Committee's Coast Guard panel, sent a letter to Commandant Paul Zukunft on Thursday asking him to send an "unfunded priority list" to lawmakers within 10 days that includes three heavy icebreakers ("at the very least") and three medium icebreakers. "Any list that is produced without identifying these assets among other top acquisition priorities would surely raise questions about the Coast Guard's sense of urgency as well as the overall commitment to build icebreakers consistent with statements and testimony from you and the service's leadership," Hunter wrote.

Not impressed by Trump's budget: As Pro Defense's Jacqueline Klimas reports, Hunter thinks the service should "produce an exhaustive list ... that fully represents both your short-term and long-term needs." He argues that such a list "is even more important given the president's budget request and its lack of adequate support for polar icebreaker funding." Trump's fiscal 2018 budget proposed $19 million for a new Coast Guard icebreaker.

LOOKING TO STEER POLICY: Plurus Strategies, a firm that just started up in Washington, is lobbying for The Northeast Maglev. The company is pushing for maglev technology to be built through the Northeast Corridor, with a first leg envisioned between Washington, D.C., and Baltimore.

JOIN US: The General Aviation Manufacturers Association announced Thursday that Siemens and Meiya Group Global have joined the trade organization.

SHIFTING GEARS: Steve Rebillot has left the Associated Builders and Contractors to be senior director of federal affairs for the Wine & Spirits Wholesalers of America. Rebillot was director of legislative affairs for ABC. (h/t POLITICO Influence)

THE AUTOBAHN:

- "Trump budget cuts funding for security at train stations, rail networks." The Wall Street Journal.

- "Trump to EU: Germany is 'bad, very bad' for selling too many cars in the U.S." New York Magazine.

- "Metro track workers will face disciplinary action after Yellow Line 'near miss.'" The Washington Post.

- "Web of tracks, switches complicates NY Penn Station summer repairs." Reuters.

- "Blackstone works with Saudi Arabia on U.S. infrastructure investments." The New York Times.

- "Ex-TSA chief John Pistole in talks for top FBI job: report." The Hill.

- "GM accused in lawsuit of deceit on diesel truck emissions." The New York Times.

- "Ford lures engineer back from Uber to oversee self-driving cars." The Wall Street Journal.

- "Doomed jet made late, hard turn into Teterboro, NTSB says." NJ.com.

THE COUNTDOWN: DOT appropriations run out in 128 days. The FAA reauthorization expires in 128 days. Highway and transit policy is up for renewal in 1,224 days.

To view online:
http://www.politico.com/tipsheets/morning-transportation/2017/05/26/airlines-buckle-up-for-electronics-ban-expansion-220530

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Subject: BREAKING NEWS: Comey accuses White House of 'lies, plain and simple' when they explained his dismissal

Fired FBI Director James Comey opened his blockbuster appearance before the Senate by accusing President Donald Trump's administration of slandering him with its explanations of his abrupt dismissal, but also saying he did not believe the president or his aides asked him to stop the Russia probe.

Comey directly accused the White House of flatly lying when it said the FBI workforce was widely dissatisfied with his performance.

"The administration then chose to defame me and more importantly the FBI, by saying the organization was poorly led," the ex-FBI chief said. "Those were lies, plain and simple."

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From: Morning Energy
Sent: Fri 5/26/2017 2:07:38 PM
Subject: POLITICO's Morning Energy, presented by POET: White House expects earful on climate in Sicily — EPA shelves compliance deadlines for effluent limits rule — More ask Zinke not to alter monument designations

By Anthony Adragna | 05/26/2017 10:04 AM EDT

CIAO PRESIDENTE! LET'S TALK CLIMATE: Expect President Donald Trump to get an earful about climate change and the 2015 Paris agreement from the leaders of Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan and the United Kingdom as the G-7 kicks off in Sicily. National Economic Council Director Gary Cohn told reporters to expect a discussion of climate issues during a session on "global issues" sometime this afternoon. "He's interested to hear what the G7 leaders have to say about climate," Cohn said. "It will be a fairly robust discussion on that." He added Trump's heard "arguments that are persuasive on both sides" about climate change, and noted the president's concern the existing emissions reduction pledge is too ambitious and would be "highly crippling to the U.S. economic growth."

Eyebrow-raising comment from Cohn on U.S. energy mix: "Coal doesn't even make that much sense anymore as a feedstock. Natural gas, which we have become an abundant producer [of], which we're going to become a major exporter of, is such a cleaner fuel. If you think about how solar and how much wind power we've created in the United States, we can be a manufacturing powerhouse and still be environmentally friendly."

Climate has already popped up repeatedly on Trump's European swing: Cohn said Trump had been pushed on climate change and the Paris pact at every bilateral meeting with world leaders during his time in Europe. Newly-elected French President Emmanuel Macron told reporters he had an "extremely direct and very frank" conversation with Trump about not making a hasty decision on Paris. "I reminded him of the importance these agreements have for us," Macron said, according to Reuters. "My wish in any case is that there should be no hasty decision on this subject by the United States because it is our collective responsibility to retain the global nature of this pledge, which was a first."

European Council President Donald Tusk said there were unresolved questions about the U.S. position on climate change following his meeting with the president. And that comes on the heels of Pope Francis gifting Trump a copy of his climate change-related encyclical and Vatican officials urging the U.S. to stick with the Paris deal.

Commitment sought: As Trump touched down in Sicily Thursday night, European leaders still hadn't gotten a clear sense of where he stood on the Paris deal, and diplomats from other nations said their top priority was keeping Trump in the pact, POLITICO's Tara Palmeri reports. The U.S. indecision is a departure from standard practice at international summits where policy commitments are typically agreed to in advance.

Bottom line: Trump is expected to make a final decision about Paris once he returns from the trip.

TGIF MY FRIENDS! I'm your host Anthony Adragna, and the Southern Environmental Law Center's Navis Bermudez was first to identify Alexander Stephens as the only Confederate vice president. For today: The late 1960s expulsion of which House member was followed by a Supreme Court ruling allowing them to regain their seat? Send your tips, energy gossip and comments to aadragna@politico.com, or follow us on Twitter @AnthonyAdragna, @Morning_Energy, and @POLITICOPro.

PROGRAMMING NOTE - Due to the Memorial Day holiday, Morning Energy will not publish on Monday, May 29. Our next Morning Energy will publish on Tuesday, May 30. Please continue to follow Pro Energy issues here.

GIANFORTE WINS IN MONTANA: One day after allegedly assaulting a reporter, Montana voters sent Republican Greg Gianforte to Congress to fill the seat once held by Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke. The race went for Gianforte, a former technology executive who lost a gubernatorial bid in 2016, over Democrat Rob Quist, a folk singer and first-time candidate. The race for Montana's sole congressional seat had narrowed even before the "bodyslam" of The Guardian's Ben Jacobs, even though Trump won the Big Sky State by more than 20 points last fall. POLITICO's Scott Bland has more on the race here.

COMPLIANCE DATES PUSHED FOR EPA RULE: EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt signed a proposed regulation Thursday suspending compliance dates for an Obama administration regulation limiting toxic discharges from coal-fired power plants, Pro's Annie Snider reports. The agency will accept public comment for 30 days on its plan to suspend compliance dates implementing two aspects of the rule, which limits waterborne pollutants like arsenic and lead. Those requirements would be indefinitely suspended "until EPA promulgates a final rule specifying compliance dates."

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MORE PRESSURE FOR ETHICS WAIVERS: Additional voices are pushing the Trump administration to release copies of ethics waivers it has granted so that lobbyists can serve in its ranks. House Natural Resources Ranking Member Raul Grijalva sent a letter to Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross and Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue requesting all copies of the waivers. "The current Administration's refusal to comply with this completely reasonable and standard request for information flies in the face of the President's repeated claims to support an open and transparent government," he wrote. That letter comes after Earthjustice filed FOIA requests with EPA, Energy and Interior for copies of all waivers already granted.

YOU DON'T GOT THE POWER! As the public comment period on what to do about Bears Ears National Monument closes, the top four congressional Democrats - Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, Minority Whip Dick Durbin, House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi and

Minority Whip Steny Hoyer - sent Zinke a letter urging him not to alter existing national monument designations. "It is unconscionable to think that this administration would sell out America's outdoor heritage to benefit corporate interests in the oil, gas and mining industries," they wrote.

But wait, there's more! 86 House Democrats, led by Raul Grijalva, sent Zinke a letter arguing he lacks the power to rescind or revise national monuments designated under the Antiquities Act. "Congress has not delegated authority to significantly diminish or abolish an existing national monument," they wrote. "The Constitutional authority to revoke or shrink a national monument lies with the Congress."

Meanwhile, politicians split on Maine designation: While comments on another two dozen previously designated monuments roll on, Sen. Angus King sent a letter Thursday urging Zinke "in the strongest possible terms" to let the Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument, designated by the Obama administration, remain in its current form. "I am absolutely convinced that the prompt conclusion of this review and reaffirmation of the Monument designation would be a positive step," King wrote. "This Monument is some of the first positive news for the Katahdin region in a long time; please don't let it be taken away." That comes as a map from Gov. Paul LePage's office shows what it says are shuttered recreational opportunities in the area since the monument's designation.

JETTING OFF: Zinke will travel to Norway, Greenland and Alaska on a congressional delegation led by Senate ENR Chairman Lisa Murkowski this weekend.

ONE MORE FROM GRIJALVA: The Arizona Democrat also asked Zinke in a letter for information about who asked the U.S. Geological Survey to remove references to the relationship between climate change and sea level rise from a press release. "The public needs reassurance that his Administration will not persecute scientists or suppress the findings of their work," he wrote.

Grijalva's office tells ME he has yet to receive any response to 11 different letters sent to Interior and related agencies dating to mid-February. ME remembers Republicans loudly decrying the slow response times to their inquiries of Obama-era officials, but they don't appear to be concerned now that roles have reversed. Interior did not respond to requests for comment.

NEARLY EVERGREEN AT THIS POINT: Senior House Republican leaders, rife with divisions in their ranks about government spending, are already plotting how to avoid a government shutdown this fall, POLITICO's Rachael Bade and John Bresnahan report. Congress only has 43 legislative days left to pass appropriations bills before they hit the Sept. 30 deadline to keep the lights on, so Speaker Paul Ryan in a closed-door GOP conference meeting Thursday morning raised the possibility of clumping appropriations bills together in an omnibus to save time.

The takeaway from one GOP source: "This is gonna be a brutal battle. Defense hawks want $640 [billion], appropriators want $516 [billion] for non-defense, moderates don't want any changes to mandatory. And yet everyone says the budget still has to balance. Those numbers

don't add up. And a budget that doesn't have serious deficit reduction isn't going to make it out of committee."

THEY'RE GETTING FASTER AT THIS! Just two days after the announcement, Trump's White House formally sent the nomination of David Jonas to be DOE's general counsel to the Senate. The landing team member and an expert on nuclear nonproliferation has been a partner at the Virginia law firm Fluet, Huber and Hoang since 2016.

ICYMI: Three of the four protesters that interrupted Thursday's confirmation hearings for two FERC nominees and the No. 2 DOE post were sent to jail after being charged with misdemeanors, a spokeswoman for the Capitol Police tells ME. The other paid a fine and left. Pro's Esther Whieldon has a look at the rest of the hearing here.

MAIL CALL! SENATORS PUSH FOR DRINKING WATER FUNDING: A bipartisan group of more than two dozen senators, led by Sen. Ben Cardin, sent a letter to top Appropriators urging them to continue strong funding for grant programs to reduce lead in drinking water. "We can no longer delay needed upgrades to our infrastructure, strengthening drinking water protections and removing lead and other contaminants out of public water supplies," they wrote.

GROUPS FIGHT METHANE RULE RECONSIDERATION: A coalition of more than 60 conservation, public health, labor and faith groups are urging Pruitt not to suspend requirements for oil and gas companies to find and fix leaks from their facilities as he reconsiders those standards for new and modified wells. "EPA's methane standards are national protections that will ensure all communities benefit from these common sense best practices - and not just those located in states that have adopted such regulations," the groups, which include the Environmental Defense Fund, Clean Air Task Force and Earthworks, wrote in a letter.

BLANKENSHIP ASKS SUPREMES TO STEP IN: Former Massey Energy chief Don Blankenship asked the Supreme Court on Thursday to toss out his 2015 misdemeanor conviction of conspiracy to violate mine safety standards, Pro's Alex Guillén reports. He recently left prison after serving a year for that conviction, which stemmed from the 2010 Upper Big Branch mine disaster that killed 29 of his workers.

DIRECTOR OF NEBRASKA BOARD OVERSEEING KEYSTONE RESIGNS: Jeff Pursley, executive director of the Nebraska Public Service Commission, has resigned effective June 12. A commission spokeswoman tells ME the departure will have "no impact" on the commissioners' review of Keystone XL's proposed route currently before the panel.

OVERDRAWN: An employee within Interior's Office of the Chief Information Officer knowingly used her government-issued travel card to pay for hotels, airline tickets, rental cars and gasoline, according to an inspector general report out Thursday. The official, Tracy Hamm, pleaded guilty to misdemeanor credit card fraud and received a year of probation.

MOVER, SHAKER: David Leiter, the longtime ML Strategies president who served in the Clinton administration's DOE and as chief of staff to Sen. John Kerry, has formed Plurus Strategies. One of its first clients is Exxon Mobil.

John Stapleton is leaving his position as communications director for Rep. David McKinley and begins a new role with the House Homeland Security Committee next week.

Natalie Mamerow, an adviser to the director of the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management at the Interior Department during the final year of the Obama administration, has joined the American Society of Civil Engineers as a senior manager of federal government relations, where she'll be lobbying for water, energy and environmental infrastructure. She previously worked as a legislative assistant for Rep. Ron Kind (h/t POLITICO Influence).

SPOTTED: Former Energy Secretary Ernest Moniz coming out of The Bottom Line in Washington around 1 p.m. Thursday.

QUICK HITS

- New York U.S. Lawmakers Urge Feds To Expand Hudson River Cleanup. WAMC.

- Utility owner, ex-regulator, lobbyist indicted on bribery, fraud charges. Arizona Republic.

- Iran sees breakthrough in oil deals following Rouhani re-election. Reuters.

- Coal Mines Are Reimagined as a New Power Source. Wall Street Journal.

- Perry Says His Dad Helped Make Him a Cowboy and a Politician. AP.

- Climate Change Could Uncover An Abandoned Arctic Nuclear Base. Huffington Post.

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TRUMP'S EPA: Agency at a crossroads -- Complete coverage

May 25, 2017

Latest News

Pruitt Moves To Curtail EPA Use Of 'Sue And Settle' As GOP Pushes Bills

EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt says he has signed a "directive" curtailing so-called sue and settle tactics that produce consent decrees including court-enforced deadlines for rulemaking even as observers have warned it will be difficult for the administrator to adopt such limits and as administration allies move to use the process for their own deregulatory goals.

Trump's FY18 Budget Would Maintain Smaller, 'Refocused' IRIS Program

EPA's proposed budget for fiscal year 2018 seeks to preserve a smaller version of the agency's influential but often controversial Integrated Risk Information System (IRIS), which had been slated for elimination in an early budget memo, signaling the program will be devoted in part to assessing substances under the revised toxics law and other mandatory regulatory programs.

After Delays, EPA's Superfund Vapor Intrusion Rule Quietly Takes Effect

EPA has quietly put into effect an Obama-era rule that opens the door to listing Superfund sites based solely on vapor or water intrusion, after twice delaying the effective dates of the rule along with several others that were signed late in the last administration but which were slated to take effect under the new regime.

Trump EPA's High Court Brief Defends Obama-Era Malfunction Air Policy

The Trump EPA in a new Supreme Court brief is defending an Obama-era policy under which the agency sets Clean Air Act limits without allowing any exceedances of those standards due to emissions spikes associated with facility malfunctions, even as the administration reconsiders a rule that barred states from granting such waivers.

Trump EPA Advances First Final Rule To Implement Revised Toxics Law

The Trump EPA has sent for White House pre-publication review its first final rule to implement the revised Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA), advancing a measure

establishing how to prioritize chemicals for risk evaluation that the Obama EPA proposed but the new administration will finalize based on its own approach to TSCA.

Trump's 2-1 Order Seen Driving 'Haphazard Regulation,' Experts Charge

Almost 100 economists and lawyers are criticizing President Donald Trump's executive order that requires EPA and other agencies to repeal two rules for every new measure promulgated, charging it retreats from the long-standing principle of maximizing rules' "net benefits" and opens the door to "haphazard regulation" that could harm the public.

Appliance Group Warns EPA Against 'Broad Reconsideration' Of HFC Limits

As EPA is gathering input on which regulations it should scrap or significantly revise, a major commercial appliance industry group is urging the agency to maintain its rules limiting hydrofluorocarbon (HFC) refrigerants, requesting only targeted changes to some of the deadlines.

Daily Feed

Pruitt, queried by lead candidate, remains mum on EPA deputy

"When are you going to name a deputy administrator at EPA?" the lead candidate for the post asked the administrator.

House approves bill exempting pesticide spraying from CWA

Similar legislation has cleared the House in the past but has never made it out of the Senate, though its prospects may now be better given pressure on many farm state Democrats who face tough re-election battles in 2018.

Pruitt starts over on BOSC nominees

EPA seeks nominees for its BOSC panel one day after its chair doubted new panelists could be selected in time for an August meeting.

Quote-Unquote: Talking about budgets, science and Superfund

A lot of budget talk in a week when the Trump administration proposed a 31 percent funding cut for EPA in fiscal year 2018.

EPA's FY18 budget request: A recap of our coverage

A wrap up of our recent coverage of EPA's budget request and what it means for states, the administration's efforts to reshape the agency and its regulatory agenda, climate policy and more.

Ewire: A daily news roundup

EPA cuts climate funds to bolster TSCA implementation. Plus, Fiat-Chrysler targeted over emissions cheating and health risks from coal mining.

Power company urges 4th Circuit to take up coal ash CWA appeal

Dominion says 4th Circuit has authority to decide whether it faces Clean Water Act liability for groundwater contamination, without waiting for a district court ruling.

Read all the latest EPA news, analysis and documents →

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To: Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
From: Morning Score
Sent: Fri 5/26/2017 2:03:38 PM
Subject: POLITICO's Morning Score: Gianforte wins Montana special election — New GOP Senate possibilities in Ohio, Indiana — Some Texas GOP reps want new map for 2018

By Kevin Robillard | 05/26/2017 10:00 AM EDT

With Scott Bland

The following newsletter is an abridged version of Campaign Pro's Morning Score. For an earlier morning read on exponentially more races - and for a more comprehensive aggregation of the day's most important campaign news - sign up for Campaign Pro today. (http://www.politicopro.com/proinfo)

SPECIAL RESULTS - "Gianforte wins Montana special election," by Campaign Pro's Elena Schneider: "Republican Greg Gianforte won Montana's special House election Thursday night, beating Democrat Rob Quist a day after Gianforte was charged with assault for allegedly attacking a reporter covering his campaign. ... Gianforte's win preserved the GOP's 24-seat edge in the House of Representatives, frustrating Democratic activists who poured money into Quist's campaign and demanded more help from party groups that saw the uphill, red-state race as unwinnable. Gianforte, a technology executive, had 51 percent of the vote when The Associated Press called the race at about 10:30 p.m. Mountain Time. Quist, a folk singer and first-time candidate, had 44 percent of the vote. A Libertarian candidate, Mark Wicks, had 6 percent.

- "The hotly contested special election to replace Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke in Congress took a violent turn Wednesday night when Ben Jacobs, a reporter for The Guardian, asked about Gianforte's reaction to the Congressional Budget Office score of the House Republican health care plan. Jacobs said Gianforte 'body-slammed' him and broke his glasses, an account which was corroborated by audio of the incident and eyewitness accounts from a Fox News reporting team in the room. ... Republicans including House Speaker Paul Ryan and Montana Sen. Steve Daines called on Gianforte to apologize Thursday, which Gianforte did in a victory speech late Thursday night before supporters in Bozeman, Mont. When you make a mistake, you have to own up to it. That's the Montana way,' Gianforte said. 'Last night I made a mistake and I took an action that I can't take back. I'm not proud of what happened. I should not have responded in the way that I did and for that I am sorry.'"

- "... DCCC chairman Ben Ray Lujan said in a statement that Democrats intend to 'compete hard for this seat' in 2018. 'Unfortunately, the alleged violent assault of an innocent reporter and subsequent criminal charges have tainted this election at the very end and further clarified that Greg Gianforte is unfit to represent Montana,' Lujan continued. ... National Republicans took the opportunity to swipe at House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, after linking Quist to her in TV ads painting him as too liberal for Montana. 'Greg Gianforte will be the next congressman from Montana and Nancy Pelosi and liberals in Washington were rejected again,' NRCC chairman Steve Stivers said in a statement." **Full story.**

SENATE RECRUITING WATCH - Vance eyes Ohio, Hill looks at Indiana, Romney a no-

go in Utah - "Key Republicans Are Encouraging Hillbilly Elegy Author J.D. Vance To Run For Senate In Ohio," by BuzzFeed's Henry J. Gomez: "The recruiting overtures reflect unease with the early GOP frontrunner, state Treasurer Josh Mandel, who is seeking a rematch with Democratic incumbent Sherrod Brown. Four sources with knowledge of the private encouragement confirmed the conversations to BuzzFeed News. They requested anonymity to speak freely about what could become another intra-party fight in a battleground state where Republicans are divided between those who embraced Donald Trump's winning presidential campaign and those who didn't." **Full story.**

- "AG Hill, others taking look at [Indiana] Senate race," by Howey Politics Indiana's Brian Howey: "Informed and reliable GOP sources say that Attorney General Curtis Hill is making phone calls gauging support for a potential run. He is also staffing up his campaign side, with Suzie Jaworowski coming on board. She was a key player in President Trump's Indiana campaign. Another name reportedly making calls is State Rep. Mike Braun, R-Jasper. ... State Sen. Mike Delph told HPI on Wednesday that his oldest daughter Abby is getting married on June 25. "I will address 2018 after we get through this very important family event," Delph advised."

- Another Howey tidbit: "Messer is also gearing up for the U.S. Senate race, and that is igniting a field for replacement. ... The new name surfacing here is Greg Pence, brother of Vice President Mike Pence." **Full story.**

- "Hatch says Romney won't run for his Senate seat," by POLITICO's Burgess Everett: "Sen. Orrin Hatch hasn't made a final decision about whether he'll run for reelection, but he's adamant about one thing: Mitt Romney is not running for his Senate seat. ... 'I've talked to Mitt Romney. He's not going to run for this seat. I would be glad for him if he would,' Hatch told reporters." **Full story.**

Days until the 2017 election: 167.

Days until the 2018 election: 531.

Thanks for joining us. You can email tips to the Campaign Pro team at sbland@politico.com, eschneider@politico.com, krobillard@politico.com and dstrauss@politico.com.

You can also follow us on Twitter: @politicoscott, @ec_schneider, @politicokevin and @danielstrauss4.

PROGRAMMING NOTE - Due to the Memorial Day holiday, Morning Score will not publish on Monday, May 29. Our next Morning Score will publish on Tuesday, May 30.

OFF MESSAGE PODCAST BONUS EPISODE: Reps. Tom Reed (R-New York) and Josh Gottheimer (D-New Jersey) are co-chairs of the bipartisan effort to pass tax reform. The two sit down with Isaac Dovere in this week's bonus episode of Off Message to share how they have made the case to their colleagues to pass the biggest tax reform package in history in an overwhelmingly partisan environment. Listen and subscribe: iTunes | Panoply | S titcher

REDISTRICTING WATCH - "Fearing 2018 losses, Texas Republicans in Congress want special session on redistricting," by The Texas Tribune's Abby Livingston and Jim Malewitz: "Some Texas Republicans in Congress hope that any upcoming special session will include redrawing the state's 36 congressional districts as part of its agenda. The message coming out of Austin thus far: not going to happen.Several congressional Republicans told the Tribune they want Abbott to call a special session to redraw the Congressional lines. They believe such a maneuver would put their allies in the state legislature in the driver's seat, circumventing Republicans' worst fear: that a panel of federal judges will draw a less favorable map of its own." **Full story.**

ANNALS OF CAMPAIGN FINANCE - "Ted Cruz Failed to Show 2012 Loans From Goldman Sachs, FEC Says," by Bloomberg's Bill Allison: "U.S. Senator Ted Cruz improperly accounted for loans he received from Goldman Sachs Group Inc. and Citigroup Inc. during his 2012 campaign, saying the funds were his own personal contributions to the Senate race, the Federal Election Commission said Thursday. The finding, released on the FEC website, marked a rare instance of agreement among the agency's five commissioners, who voted unanimously that the $1.1 million of loans from the banks should have been disclosed to voters. The FEC didn't say whether there would be a penalty." **Full story.**

2018 WATCH - "Welfare reformer Mary Mayhew leaving as commissioner of Maine DHHS," by the Portland Press Herald's Joe Lawlor: "Mary Mayhew is stepping down as commissioner of the Department of Health and Human Services after spending more than six years leading Gov. Paul LePage's controversial push to reform Maine's public safety net. As head of the state's largest agency, Mayhew has been at the forefront of LePage's bid to revamp programs that affect thousands of Mainers, including efforts to tighten requirements for Medicaid enrollees, re-establish work requirements for food stamps, clamp down on welfare fraud, and advocate for other changes, such as forbidding junk food purchases with food stamps. Mayhew gave a brief statement to assembled reporters Wednesday afternoon at DHHS headquarters in Augusta, but refused to take questions and did not address speculation that she will run for governor in 2018. Friday is her last day." **Full story.**

- "Stacey Evans launches a HOPE-themed campaign for governor," by the Atlanta Journal-Constitution's Greg Bluestein: "The Smyrna attorney's campaign sets up what will likely be a divisive Democratic primary for the state's top job in 2018. House Minority Leader Stacey Abrams has also filed paperwork to run for governor and is expected to soon make a formal announcement. Evans said in an interview she is putting 'hope' - the scholarship and the concept - at the heart of her bid to replace a term-limited Nathan Deal. She has been one of the most forceful critics of the 2011 law he signed that slashed funding to the popular program. ... The 39-year-old's background will play a central role in her campaign. A child of a struggling teenage mom, the Ringgold native was the first in her family to graduate from college. She used her share in a massive whistleblower settlement to create a $500,000 scholarship for first-generation graduates at the University of Georgia's law school." **Full story.**

HOW IT HAPPENED - "How Alleged Russian Hacker Teamed Up With Florida GOP Operative," by the Wall Street Journal's Alexandra Berzon and Rob Berry: "The hacker

also privately sent Democratic voter-turnout analyses to a Republican political operative in Florida named Aaron Nevins. Learning that hacker 'Guccifer 2.0' had tapped into a Democratic committee that helps House candidates, Mr. Nevins wrote to the hacker to say: 'Feel free to send any Florida based information.' Ten days later, Mr. Nevins received 2.5 gigabytes of Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee documents, some of which he posted on a blog called HelloFLA.com that he ran using a pseudonym. Soon after, the hacker sent a link to the blog article to Roger Stone, a longtime informal adviser to then-candidate Donald Trump, along with Mr. Nevins' analysis of the hacked data." **Full story.**

ADMINISTRATION SPEED READ - "Jared Kushner now a focus in Russia investigation," by the Washington Post's Matt Zapotosky, Sari Horwitz, Devlin Barrett and Adam Entous: "Investigators are focusing on a series of meetings held by Jared Kushner, President Trump's son-in-law and an influential White House adviser, as part of their probe into Russian meddling in the 2016 election and related matters, according to people familiar with the investigation. Kushner, who held meetings in December with the Russian ambassador and a banker from Moscow, is being investigated because of the extent and nature of his interactions with the Russians, the people said." **Full story.**

CODA - QUOTE OF THE DAY: "Last night I made a mistake and took an action that I can't take back, and I'm not proud of what happened." - Rep.-elect Greg Gianforte (R-Mont.), apologizing in his Thursday victory speech for the incident with Guardian reporter Ben Jacobs that resulted in Gianforte being charged with assault on Wednesday.

To view online:
http://www.politico.com/tipsheets/morning-score/2017/05/26/gianforte-wins-montana-special-election-220539

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To: Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
From: Morning Score
Sent: Mon 6/5/2017 2:15:06 PM
Subject: POLITICO's Morning Score: Senate Democrats focus on big rural issues — Fox passes on Montana Senate — Perriello has $734K for stretch run in Virginia

By Kevin Robillard | 06/05/2017 10:00 AM EDT

With Scott Bland

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THE RURAL JURORS - "Senate Democrats try to spark rural comeback in 2018," by Campaign Pro's Maggie Severns: "Sen. Tammy Baldwin (D-Wis.) has declared war on almond milk as she prepares to run for reelection in 2018. Though not a cause célèbre driving political talk on cable news, plant-based beverages called milk are a major sore spot for dairy farmers in Wisconsin, where President Donald Trump swept up to 71 percent of the vote in rural counties last November. ... While many voters in rural areas complained that Democrats forgot them in 2016, and party strategists rush this year to find a new message to bring them back in the fold, Democratic senators up for reelection in 2018 have little time to spare to fix their party's issues. ... And they are focused this year on winning back voters their party has failed to connect with since the last time they appeared on the ballot."

- " ... While Republicans concede that Democrats' emphasis on local issues is smart politics, it hints at an unpleasant truth, said Scott Jennings, a GOP consultant and former deputy political director in the George W. Bush White House. Jennings said the early moves are also a sign that the national Democratic Party could be a liability in the next election. 'The reason they're having to localize these things is because they have so badly failed at making their national message anything recognizable to people who used to be Democrats in rural America,' Jennings said." **Full story.**

2018 WATCH - "Montana AG declines Senate run against Tester," by Campaign Pro's Kevin Robillard and Elena Schneider: "Montana Attorney General Tim Fox, a Republican, has decided not to run for Senate against Democratic Sen. Jon Tester in 2018, according to two GOP sources with knowledge of the decision. Fox is the second high-profile potential challenger to opt against a bid, following Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke's decision in December to join President Donald Trump's Cabinet instead." **Full story.**

- How quickly did the situation in Montana change? According to a GOP source, NRSC executive director Chris Hansen had just told attendees at a Thursday PAC briefing that Fox was going to run and defeat Tester in 2018.

- Nolan opts against Minnesota governor run: "Democratic Rep. Rick Nolan won't run for governor of Minnesota in 2018, he announced [Friday], saying he feels a duty to remain in

Washington during the Trump administration. ... 'America is at a tipping point, and I feel compelled to devote all of my energy and experience to moving our nation forward" in Washington, Nolan wrote on Facebook. ... Nolan's decision means he will be able to defend his 8th District in 2018, after it also trended significantly to the right. The rural district went for Trump with 54 percent of the vote in 2016 after then-President Barack Obama won 52 percent in 2012." **Full story.**

GOV WATCH - "DeSantis makes moves to run for governor," by POLITICO Florida's Marc Caputo: "Rep. Ron DeSantis is quietly exploring a bid for Florida governor next year as he meets with potential donors, chats up possible campaign staff and fields endorsements from fellow conservatives. DeSantis, 38, who briefly ran for U.S. Senate last year before Marco Rubio decided to seek reelection, acknowledged that he's examining a campaign. But he wouldn't say much more beyond that or comment on what could be a bruising primary against Florida Agriculture Commissioner Adam Putnam, the likely GOP frontrunner, who last month launched his campaign." **Full story.**

- "Georgia Democrat aims to be nation's first female African American governor," by the Washington Post's Vanessa Williams in Albany, Ga.: "Stacey Abrams, a Georgia politician who embodies what many progressives argue is the future of the Democratic Party, launched what she hopes will be a history-making campaign Saturday when she officially announced her candidacy for governor of the Peach State. The 43-year-old Democratic leader of the Georgia State House, who enters as the front-runner for her party's nomination, is aiming to become the first African American woman to be elected governor in U.S. history. ... [J]ust 11 black women have ever been elected to statewide positions nationwide." **Full story.**

- "Pro-Trump loyalist Michael Williams enters governor race," by the Atlanta Journal Constitution's Greg Bluestein: "Republican Michael Williams entered the race for governor on Thursday, pinning his campaign on his outspoken support for Donald Trump as he hopes the same anti-establishment wave that elected the president propels him to Georgia's highest office. ... he has already attacked GOP rivals he deems not sufficiently pro-Trump as 'disingenuous.' ... A businessman who once owned a chain of Sport Clips barber shops, Williams indicated last year he would run for secretary of state. But energized by Trump's victory, he hinted repeatedly that he would aim for the state's highest job instead." **Full story.**

Days until the 2017 election: 154.

Days until the 2018 election: 518.

Thanks for joining us.You can email tips to the Campaign Pro team at sbland@politico.com, eschneider@politico.com, krobillard@politico.com and dstrauss@politico.com.

You can also follow us on Twitter: @politicoscott, @ec_schneider, @politicokevin and @danielstrauss4.

VIRGINIA FUNDRAISING - Perriello raises $1.8 million, has $734K on hand: Former Rep. Tom Perriello raised $1.8 million in the last fundraising period before the Virginia Democratic

gubernatorial primary, his campaign announced, and has just under $734,000 on hand. The Perriello campaign noted 2009 Democratic primary winner Creigh Deeds has just $525,000 on hand at the same point of the race. Perriello's primary rival, Lt. Gov. Ralph Northam, hasn't released his fundraising numbers yet. The deadline to report is Monday.

- And he's ruling out oil and gas money: Perriello, who has made his refusal to take money from Dominion Power a key talking point in the primary, on Thursday signed a pledge not to take any money from the oil, gas or coal industries. He's the first gubernatorial candidate to sign a pledge sponsored by ClimateTruth.org Action, Climate Hawks Vote, 350 Action and other groups. The sponsors plan to push Democrats throughout the country to sign the pledge in 2018. **The pledge is here.**

ONLINE MONEY MILESTONE - ActBlue announced on Friday that it crossed $200 million raised in 2017, across 4,404 organizations. That's more money than passed through the Democratic online fundraising platform in all of 2015, the previous electoral off-year.

TRUMP ON THE TRAIL - "President Donald Trump to headline fundraiser for Gov. Scott Walker in Wisconsin," by the Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel's Bill Glauber and Daniel Bice: "President Donald Trump will come to southeastern Wisconsin later this month to headline a fundraiser for Gov. Scott Walker. The event will be held June 13 in the evening, but the location hasn't been set. Although no public event has yet been scheduled, it's customary for a president to couple a fundraiser with an official appearance." **Full story.**

- "Trump to host fund-raiser for South Jersey Rep. Tom MacArthur," by the Philadelphia Inquirer's Jonathan Tamari: "President Trump will host a fund-raiser June 11 for South Jersey Congressman Tom MacArthur, using his New Jersey golf club to help a lawmaker facing intense criticism after playing a key role in pushing the GOP's Affordable Care Act rollback through the House. The event at Trump National Golf Club in Bedminster is soliciting donations ranging from $5,400 per couple up to $100,000 raised and donated by hosts, according to an invitation obtained by the Inquirer." **Full story .**

SHARKS AND JETS - "New governor toured Iowa on casino tycoon's jet," by the AP's Ryan J. Foley and Barbara Rodriguez: "For her first trip across Iowa as governor, Republican Kim Reynolds sought and accepted the free use of a jet owned by a wealthy businessman who is lobbying for state approval to build a lucrative casino. ... In response to inquiries from The Associated Press, the governor's office said the pair, a state trooper and staffers traveled in an airplane owned by businessman Gary Kirke, who donated the use of the plane and services of two pilots as in-kind contributions to Reynolds' newly established gubernatorial campaign. The arrangement, while apparently allowed under ethics rules, is drawing criticism from Reynolds' opponents, highlighting Kirke's cozy relationship with the administration and raising security questions." **Full story.**

- GOP Cedar Rapids Mayor Ron Corbett will announce a primary challenge to Reynolds at the end of June, the Quad City Times reports.

YOUR DAILY GEORGIA - Ossoff releases second attack ad on Planned Parenthood: The

ad features four breast cancer survivors praising Planned Parenthood's cancer screenings and criticizing Republican Karen Handel for stopping funding for Planned Parenthood while she was an executive at Susan G. Komen. **Watch the ad here.**

TOWN HALL WATCH - "Issa walks fine line at town hall in divided district," by Rachael Bade in San Juan Capistrano, Calif.: " John Mathews, a self-described retired technology guru and life-long Republican from the coastal town of Del Mar, Calif., is a Darrell Issa voter. But during a Saturday morning town hall here in an affluent Southern Californian neighborhood, Matthews lit into the nine-term Republican congressman for failing to do more to stop Russia's interference in the 2016 election. 'I want to know when you and the Republican Party are going to stand up, use your political capital, and recognize that our democracy is under attack from an adversary,' he asked Issa. ... [A]nger from the left - and more than a little from his own party - has dogged Issa here in a Republican-leaning part of his increasingly Democratic district. Every seat in a nearly 500-person auditorium at the San Juan Hills High School was filled, and hundreds of constituents protested outside, irate that they couldn't get in." **Full story.**

LURCHING LEFT - "The Single-Payer Party? Democrats Shift Left on Health Care," by the New York Times' Alexander Burns and Jennifer Medina: "[A]s Democrats regroup from their 2016 defeat, leaders say the party has plainly shifted well to the left on the issue, setting the stage for a larger battle over the health care system in next year's congressional elections and the 2020 presidential race. Their liberal base, emboldened by Senator Bernie Sanders's forceful advocacy of government-backed health care last year, is increasingly unsatisfied with the Affordable Care Act and is demanding more drastic changes to the private health insurance system. ... Representative Rick Nolan of Minnesota, a populist Democrat whose district voted for President Trump by a wide margin, said he had rarely seen core Democratic voters as enthusiastic about an issue as they were about single-payer health care. Mr. Nolan said he would support creating a state-level system in Minnesota, but believed the party's goal should be a national law." **Full story.**

JERSEY YAWN - "As governor candidates make frantic final primary push, N.J. asks: 'What election?,'" by Claude Brodesser-Akner: "Over the last 90 years, primary voter turnout for New Jersey governor's races has never cracked 40 percent and went as low as 9 percent four years ago. [Monmouth University pollster Patrick] Murray says New Jersey would be lucky to hit 12 percent in next week's election. ... Part of the problem, of course, is that New Jersey sits nestled between the New York and Philadelphia media markets, with few ways to speak directly to most residents. 'We still live in a media desert,' said Brad Lawrence, the head of the New Brunswick marketing firm 4CM&M, and the ad guru behind Murphy's campaign." **Full story.**

CODA - QUOTE OF THE DAY: "The tone, the exact words that were spoken and the context is so important. We can only get that by talking to those directly involved." - Sen. Susan Collins (R-Maine) on CBS' Face the Nation, regarding former FBI Director James Comey's upcoming congressional testimony and the circumstances that led to his firing, via POLITICO.

To view online:
http://www.politico.com/tipsheets/morning-score/2017/06/05/senate-democrats-focus-on-big-rural-issues-220661

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From: Anna Palmer and Jake Sherman
Sent: Thur 5/25/2017 10:50:51 AM
Subject: POLITICO Playbook, presented by the Coalition for Affordable Prescription Drugs (CAPD): MT GOP candidate charged after he 'body slams' reporter -- TRUMP in Brussels -- MERKEL's presidential day -- Kellyanne and Heather Podesta lunch -- B'DAY: Anna Palmer

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Today's PLAYBOOK presented by the Coalition for Affordable Prescription Drugs (CAPD)
05/25/2017 06:47 AM EDT

By ANNA PALMER (anna@politico.com; @apalmerdc) and JAKE SHERMAN (sherman@politico.com; @JakeSherman) with DANIEL LIPPMAN (daniel@politico.com; @dlippman)

Driving the Day

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Good Thursday morning. PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP is in Brussels meeting with European leaders, including European Council President Donald Tusk and European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker. He's scheduled to meet with new French President Emmanuel Macron in the next few hours. He'll also visit NATO before leaving for Sicily for a G7 meeting.

WITH TRUMP IN BRUSSELS, and attending meetings with the prez: Secretary of State Rex Tillerson, Defense Secretary James Mattis, National Security Adviser H.R. McMaster, Dina Powell, and Gary Cohn, per pooler Phil Rucker.

TRUMP just had a private meeting with EU leaders, per WaPo's Phil Rucker. Great exchange: "The first encounter came as the three presidents stood posing for photos. Tusk told Trump: 'Do you know, Mr. President, we have two presidents in the EU?' Trump replied: 'I know that.' Juncker chimed in: One too much.'" ... Trump on the pope: "We went to the Pope. Very impressive. The Pope was terrific."

-- "Trump faces rougher reception in NATO, EU meetings," by Reuters' Jeff Mason and Steve Holland in Brussels: "After a warm welcome in the Middle East and a 'fantastic' visit with the pope, U.S. President Donald Trump walks on shakier ground on Thursday when European Union and NATO leaders will press him on defense, trade, and environmental concerns. The Republican president, midway through his first foreign trip since taking office, has basked in the glow of favorable receptions in Riyadh and

Jerusalem, where leaders lauded his harsh words for Iran.

"Praise may be in shorter supply in Brussels. Trump questioned the relevance of the NATO military alliance as a presidential candidate, and is considering pulling the United States out of the Paris agreement on climate change -- a huge concern in Europe. The EU was also a party to the Iran nuclear agreement, which Trump has criticized sharply. 'We expect him to recommit to NATO's founding rule that an attack against one ally is an attack against all,' said a senior European diplomat at the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. 'Words matter and there is a huge expectation on that.'" http://reut.rs/2qiSh1Z

GREAT LINE FROM POLITICO EUROPE PLAYBOOKER RYAN HEATH -- "German Chancellor Angela Merkel is the meat in a presidential PR sandwich today." **FORMER PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA** had breakfast with Merkel in Berlin before the two participated in the Obama Foundation's first international event -- a talk at the Brandenburg Gate on the importance of civic engagement. Merkel will then leave for the NATO summit in Brussels with Trump.

OOPS!! -- @StateDept: ".@POTUS arrives for #NATOmeeting in #Brussels today. #POTUSAbroad" http://bit.ly/2rCJ7kU ... **@PoliticoRyan:** "As @StollmeyerEU pointed out - this is #POTUS arriving at the #EU, not #NATO ... that meeting doesn't start for hours."

THE STORY OF THE DAY -- HADAS GOLD AND GABE DEBENEDETTI (who is in Helena, Montana) **-- "Montana House GOP candidate cited after reporter says he 'body-slammed me'":** "Montana Republican congressional candidate Greg Gianforte was issued a citation late Wednesday after he allegedly 'body-slammed' a reporter at a campaign event on the eve of a hotly contested special election. Ben Jacobs, a reporter for The Guardian tweeted that Gianforte 'body-slammed me and broke my glasses' at a campaign event in Bozeman, Montana -- minutes before what was to be the last campaign rally of the campaign.

"Jacobs said he had asked Gianforte about a new budget analysis of House Republicans' effort to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act. Late Wednesday, Gallatin County Sheriff Brian Gootkin issued a statement saying the Republican congressional candidate had been cited for 'misdemeanor assault' and that Gianforte would have to appear in court by June 7 to resolve the matter. 'The nature of the injuries did not meet the statutory elements of felony assault,' the sheriff said in his statement.

"The incident rocked a closely watched contest, just hours before voters cast their ballots in Thursday's special House election in Montana to replace Ryan Zinke, who is now the Trump administration's secretary of the interior. Gianforte, a technology executive, is running against Democrat Rob Quist, a folk singer and first-time candidate. The race in the traditional Republican stronghold is turning out to be closer than many thought it would be." http://politi.co/2qmuDkk ... ***Audio of the incident*** http://bit.ly/2qmEnuR

-- FOX NEWS FIRST-PERSON ACCOUNT by Alicia Acuna: "Gianforte grabbed Jacobs by the neck with both hands and slammed him into the ground behind him. Faith, Keith and I watched in disbelief as Gianforte then began punching the reporter. As Gianforte moved on top of Jacobs, he began yelling something to the effect of, 'I'm sick and tired of this!'" http://fxn.ws/2qeLw5o

-- DEMOCRATS are looking to take advantage of the last-minute break in the closer-than-expected race. The DCCC is up with Facebook ads targeting "with a goal of both persuasion and mobilization" in order to reach "Democrats who might have been less likely to turn out and vote on Election Day." MoveOn.org also released a digital ad to run through Election Day. ***DCCC ad*** http://bit.ly/2qYSpVo ... ***MoveOn ad*** http://bit.ly/2qmx728

CAN THIS FLIP THE RACE? The Billings Gazette: "Though 37 percent of registered voters have already returned absentee ballots, there will 'still be plenty of people voting on Election Day,' [political science professor Jeremy] Johnson said. Turnout in special elections is typically low, and with this vote on the Thursday before Memorial Day many have predicted low numbers at the polls." http://bit.ly/2rCHlQN

GIANFORTE'S CAMPAIGN SPOKESPERSON, Shane Scanlon, said: "Tonight, as Greg was giving a separate interview in a private office, The Guardian's Ben Jacobs entered the office without permission, aggressively shoved a recorder in Greg's face, and began asking badgering questions. Jacobs was asked to leave. After asking Jacobs to lower the recorder, Jacobs declined. Greg then attempted to grab the phone that was pushed in his face. Jacobs grabbed Greg's wrist, and spun away from Greg, pushing them both to the ground. It's unfortunate that this aggressive behavior from a liberal journalist created this scene at our campaign volunteer BBQ."

-- HMM... First of all, the tape doesn't back up this story. Second: The dude body slammed a reporter! Don't make excuses. Apologize!

THIS GUY MIGHT BE IN THE WRONG BUSINESS. When you are a member of Congress, you constantly have reporters shoving microphones in your face. Journalists wait outside bathrooms to corner you on the news of the day.

THE QUESTION FOR PAUL RYAN AND OTHER REPUBLICAN LEADERS: What will Republicans say about Gianforte -- a potential House Republican -- allegedly physically assaulting a reporter for asking a question about the health-care bill? Should he be allowed to caucus with Republicans? If he were a sitting member, there would probably be calls for his resignation.

ABOUT THAT HEALTH CARE BILL ... -- "CBO: House Obamacare repeal bill would leave 23 million more uninsured," by Adam Cancryn and Sarah Ferris: "Roughly 23 million more people would be uninsured over a decade if the House-passed Republican Obamacare repeal bill becomes law, according to a long-awaited CBO analysis that

could complicate GOP hopes of getting a companion measure through the Senate.

"That's nearly identical to the coverage losses that CBO forecast for an earlier version of the bill -- despite the addition of new provisions and billions of dollars in funding aimed at keeping more people insured.

"The nonpartisan scorekeeping office also forecast the GOP plan would cut the deficit by $119 billion over a decade, primarily because of its cuts to Medicaid and private insurance subsidies. That exceeds $2 billion of minimum projected savings the bill needed to hit, which should clear an important hurdle and help the bill's prospects of getting to the Senate. Senate GOP aides are still checking the analysis to ensure the bill can travel safely across the Capitol." http://politi.co/2rT6aFh

****** **A message from the Coalition for Affordable Prescription Drugs (CAPD):** One in two Americans rely on their employers for health care benefits including affordable access to prescription drugs. That's why employers are partnering with PBMs to provide access to effective medications at the most affordable price and improve health outcomes. Learn more at www.affordableprescriptiondrugs.org. ******

SHOT -- SENATE MAJORITY LEADER MITCH MCCONNELL is continuing to keep his plans for health care reform close to the vest. When asked at a Reuters newsmaker event Wednesday about Senate GOP's health care package, McConnell said: "I don't know how we get to 50 [votes] at the moment. But that's the goal. And exactly what the composition of that [bill] is I'm not going to speculate about because it serves no purpose." http://reut.rs/2qeGm9v

CHASER -- "Peril for Republicans if they push forward with Obamacare repeal," by Paul Demko and Jen Haberkorn: "Obamacare repeal is in trouble in the Senate, and a nonpartisan analysis of the House's repeal legislation issued Wednesday only reinforced that reality. Within minutes of the release of the report showing 23 million fewer Americans would be insured over a decade, two Senate Republicans blasted the estimate and the House bill, underscoring just how much the legislation will have to change to get through the upper chamber. Sen. Dean Heller (R-Nev.), one of the few Senate Republicans expected to face a tough re-election contest next year, said the House bill 'does not do enough to address Nevada's Medicaid population or protect Nevadans with pre-existing conditions.' Sen. Bill Cassidy (R-La.) also criticized the House bill for failing to adequately protect Americans with pre-existing medical conditions." http://politi.co/2rXCLJf

JOANNE KENEN on "10 key points from the CBO report on Obamacare repeal": http://politi.co/2qZkP3P

NYT SCOOP, A1 -- "Top Russian Officials Discussed How to Influence Trump Aides Last Summer," by Matt Rosenberg, Adam Goldman and Matt Apuzzo: "American spies collected information last summer revealing that senior Russian intelligence and political officials were discussing how to exert influence over Donald J.

Trump through his advisers, according to three current and former American officials familiar with the intelligence. The conversations focused on Paul Manafort, the Trump campaign chairman at the time, and Michael T. Flynn, a retired general who was advising Mr. Trump ... Some Russians boasted about how well they knew Mr. Flynn. Others discussed leveraging their ties to Viktor F. Yanukovych, the deposed president of Ukraine living in exile in Russia, who at one time had worked closely with Mr. Manafort." http://nyti.ms/2qRQp2Y

-- KEN VOGEL: "Manafort advised Trump team on Russia scandal": "Months after the FBI began examining Paul Manafort as part of a probe into ties between President Donald Trump's team and Russia, Manafort called Trump's chief of staff Reince Priebus to push back against the mounting controversy, according to four people familiar with the call. It was about a week before Trump's inauguration, and Manafort wanted to brief Trump's team on the alleged inaccuracies in a recently released dossier of memos written by a former British spy for Trump's opponents that alleged compromising ties between Russia, Trump and Trump's associates, including Manafort.

"'On the day that the dossier came out in the press, Paul called Reince, as a responsible ally of the president would do, and said this story about me is garbage, and a bunch of the other stuff in there seems implausible,' said a person close to Manafort. ... While the people say the conversations were mostly of a political or, in some cases, personal nature, the conversation with Priebus, described by four people familiar with it, was related to the scandal now subsuming Manafort and the Trump presidency. It suggests that Manafort recognized months ago the potentially serious problems posed by the investigation, even as Trump himself continues to publicly dismiss it as a politically motivated witch hunt, while predicting it won't find anything compromising." http://politi.co/2qj9UPp

THE LATEST FROM MANCHESTER -- "Police make more arrests in Manchester bomb but leaks feared," by AP's Jill Lawless and Gregory Katz in Manchester: "Police arrested two more people and were on Thursday searching a new site in Manchester suspected of links to the bombing that killed 22 people at a pop concert, as British authorities complained bitterly about investigation leaks by U.S. officials. Prime Minister Theresa May is expected to raise the issue of the leaks with President Donald Trump in Brussels later. British officials are particularly angry that photos detailing evidence about the bomb used in the attack were published in the New York Times.

"Greater Manchester Police released a statement condemning the leaks on behalf of the National Counter-Terrorism Policing units that suggested a severe rupture in trust between Britain and the United States, who have traditionally shared intelligence at the highest levels. ... Police and security services are also upset that the name of bomber Salman Abedi was leaked by U.S. officials and published while police in Britain were withholding the name for what they said were reasons of operational security." http://apne.ws/2qYWQzy

MNUCHIN CONTINUES NO BAT DRUM BEAT -- "Mnuchin Tells Democrats No Go

on Border Tax in Private Meeting," by Bloomberg's Anna Edgerton: "Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin pronounced House Speaker Paul Ryan's proposal for a border-adjusted tax dead during closed-door conversations with Democrats on the tax-writing Ways and Means Committee, according to two members of the panel. ... Judy Chu, a California Democrat on the Ways and Means Committee, said she asked Mnuchin directly during a private meeting Tuesday if he supports the border-adjusted tax. 'He actually said straight out that he doesn't support it and the president doesn't support it,' Chu said, adding that Mnuchin cited concern from businesses about price increases for consumers. 'Unless he was lying to us yesterday, I really felt it was dead on arrival,' Chu said." https://bloom.bg/2qeH3zK

COMING ATTRACTIONS -- "Republicans may need Democrats' help to raise debt limit," by Colin Wilhelm and John Bresnahan: "Republicans may need to rely on Democrats --once again -- to raise the nation's legal borrowing limit. House Freedom Caucus Chairman Mark Meadows (R-N.C.) said the group of hard-line conservatives will want concessions before supporting a debt-ceiling boost, setting up a potential showdown with the Trump administration.

"'There's a lot of discussion among Freedom Caucus members to push for a debt ceiling [increase] as long as it addresses some of the other structural reforms that conservatives have long called for,' Meadows told POLITICO. 'If that is coupled with a debt-ceiling increase that has a definite dollar amount - not a time-specific amount - then they would find a lot of support among conservatives.' Freedom Caucus sources say the group is also discussing a provision that would allow the federal government to make debt payment a priority in the event of a government shutdown later this year." ***More for pros*** http://politico.pro/2qS8bTH

-- WHAT WE HEAR ABOUT THE DEBT LIMIT: Here's the deal: back in 2011, John Boehner set a standard that the debt limit needed to be matched with dollar-for-dollar spending cuts. Republicans now insist on some sort of concession every time the debt ceiling is increased. Sometimes they get them, sometimes they don't, and Democrats just help the GOP lift the limit without any wins. But they control all of D.C. now, so expect a hardline fight. The Freedom Caucus -- the three dozen or so conservative Republicans in the House -- want the debt limit raised before the August recess. That's 31 legislative days away. That's a tight deadline, since borrowing authority doesn't truly run out until September. But most in the Capitol are predicting a big fight. House Energy and Commerce Chairman Greg Walden of Oregon told us yesterday in the Capitol that it's a "tough vote" and said a clean increase -- one without reforms -- will not be met with "broad approval."

THE JUICE ...

-- SPOTTED: Speaker Paul Ryan with Republican Conference Chairman Cathy McMorris Rodgers of Washington State chatting yesterday in a room off the House floor.

-- POWER LUNCH OF THE DAY: Kellyanne Conway and Heather Podesta at

Centrolina Wednesday. Earlier in the day, at around 9 a.m., Kellyanne was at Drybar Georgetown. She had her Secret Service security detail with her.

--SEN. BEN SASSE's new book "The Vanishing American Adult," landed at No. 3 on the New York Times bestseller list.

--FIRST IN PLAYBOOK -- Several top civil rights groups are sending a letter today to President Trump and DHS Secretary John Kelly urging them not to appoint Milwaukee County Sheriff David Clarke to be assistant secretary in the office of partnership and engagement at the Department of Homeland Security. In the letters, the groups say he has a "history of incendiary and hateful statements" that "make him unfit to serve in this role." The letter is signed by the heads of the Anti-Defamation League, Human Rights Campaign, the National Urban League, the National Council of La Raza, and Muslim Advocates. http://politi.co/2rkwuez

-- CHELSEA HANDLER recently sat down with Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.) to chat about 2020, whether Senate Majority Leader McConnell speaks to her and her views on what the GOP is doing in power. The interview streams on Netflix on Friday. ***Video*** http://bit.ly/2qRVZCC

-- JARED AND IVANKA'S date night in Rome. *8 pix on one page* http://dailym.ai/2qeNMcF

WITH FRIENDS LIKE THESE ... "Spicer left out of Vatican visit," by Annie Karni in Rome: "President Donald Trump's entourage at the Vatican on Wednesday included his wife, his daughter, and an array of staffers -- but not White House press secretary Sean Spicer, a devout Catholic who told reporters earlier this year that he gave up alcohol for Lent. Both sides, according to a White House official, agreed to limit the number of staffers who attended." http://politi.co/2qeNqTE

Playbook Reads

PHOTO DU JOUR: President Donald Trump and first lady Melania Trump listen to a guide as they look at the frescoed ceilings during their visit to the Sistine Chapel at the Vatican on May 24. | L'Osservatore Romano/Pool Photo via AP

CNN'S MANU RAJU and **EVAN PEREZ -- "AG Sessions did not disclose Russia meetings in security clearance form, DOJ says":** "Attorney General Jeff Sessions did not disclose meetings he had last year with Russian officials when he applied for his security clearance, the Justice Department told CNN Wednesday. Sessions, who met with Russian Ambassador Sergey Kislyak at least two times last year, didn't note those interactions on the form, which requires him to list 'any contact' he or his family had with

a "foreign government' or its 'representatives' over the past seven years ... Justice Department spokeswoman Sarah Isgur Flores ... says he and his staff were ... told by an FBI employee who assisted in filling out the form, known as the SF-86, that he didn't need to list dozens of meetings with foreign ambassadors that happened in his capacity as a senator." http://cnn.it/2rT4RpR

IVANKA WATCH -- "Ivanka Trump asks trafficked women what U.S. can do to help," by AP's Frances D'Emilio in Rome: "Ivanka Trump met Wednesday with a group of African women in Rome who were trafficked into prostitution rings, a private encounter said to have moved her to tears. Trump visited the Rome headquarters of the Sant'Egidio Community, a Catholic humanitarian organization that serves the poor, the elderly and migrants, after a morning visit to the Vatican. Sant'Egidio official Daniela Pompei said the closed-door encounter lasted 40 minutes and Trump asked the 10 African women for suggestions on what the U.S. government, led by her father, President Donald Trump, can do to help others like them." http://abcn.ws/2rk3R0U

CLICKER - "Trump's visit with Pope Francis: The top photos out of Rome" -- *25 pix* http://politi.co/2qiYbAa

MAGGIE HABERMAN PROFILE -- "Wanna Know What Donald Trump Is Really Thinking? Read Maggie Haberman," by Rachael Combe in July's Elle: "Journalists have become part of the story in the Trump administration, enablers and heroes of a nonstop political and constitutional soap opera, and last year Haberman was the most widely read journalist at the Times, according to its analytics. Many of the juiciest Trump pieces have been broken by her ... While the president and the reporter couldn't seem more different ... the points at which their histories and personalities converge are revealing about both the media and the president himself. Trump wants what she can give him access to -- a kind of status he's always craved in a newspaper ... Haberman, for her part, has become a front-page fixture and a Fourth Estate folk hero." http://bit.ly/2qYVl4F

WEST COAST WATCH -- "The Russia investigation thrust Devin Nunes into the spotlight. Now that he's the one under scrutiny, what has he been up to?," by LA Times' Sarah D. Wire: http://lat.ms/2rCqWvl

****** **A message from the Coalition for Affordable Prescription Drugs (CAPD):** As list prices for brand drugs continue to rise, employers are partnering with PBMs to keep drug costs under control. In fact, every dollar an employer invests in a PBM service returns six dollars in savings. Learn more at www.affordableprescriptiondrugs.org. ******

FUTURE OF NEWS -- "Facebook signs BuzzFeed, Vox, others for original video shows - sources," by Reuters' Jessica Toonkel: "Facebook has signed deals with millennial-focused news and entertainment creators Vox Media, BuzzFeed, ATTN, Group Nine Media and others to make shows for its upcoming video service, which will feature long and short-form content with ad breaks, according to several sources familiar with the situation. Facebook is planning two tiers of video entertainment:

scripted shows with episodes lasting 20 to 30 minutes, which it will own; and shorter scripted and unscripted shows with episodes lasting about 5 to 10 minutes, which Facebook will not own." http://reut.rs/2qZwj7B

MEDIAWATCH -- @grynbaum: "Ken Kurson is leaving Observer for TENEO, he tells me. He'll be a senior managing director."

-- NEW POLITICO PRO HIRES - Marty Kady and Carrie Budoff Brown email the staff: "**Sheila Kaplan** will join us next week as a senior health care reporter. Sheila was most recently a Washington-based senior writer for STAT, covering the intersection of health, influence and politics. ... **John Hendel** is joining the Tech team to help cover the FCC and Hill telecom policy. John comes to us from Communications Daily, where he's been a Capitol Hill telecom policy reporter since 2013."

Playbook Reads

SPOTTED at a party last night in honor of Patrick Steel, the new CEO of POLITICO, at Dr. Elena and Robert Allbritton's residence in Georgetown: Don Baer, Brian Bechtel, Jim Bankoff, Ron Bonjean, David Castagnetti, Stephanie Cutter, Tony Fratto, Jason and Shari Gold, Josh and Blair Holmes, Joel Johnson, Dede Lea, Ray LaHood, Kevin Madden, Bruce Mehlman, Graham Miller, Greg Lowman, Susan Molinari, Geoff Morrell, Jack and Susanna Quinn, Heather Podesta, Jill Zuckman.

SPOTTED : Eric Trump and wife Lara last night at the Trump hotel having dinner. Steven Mnuchin and his fiancée Louise Linton stopped by to say hello ... IRS Commissioner John Koskinen yesterday at Mackey's Public House ... Former Secretary of Homeland Security and current University of California President Janet Napolitano eschewed the TSA Pre line at Washington Dulles Airport and went through the regular folks west side security line. "She did all the stuff regular folks do. And had no aides around making it easy." ... Nationals Manager Dusty Baker yesterday meeting with Rep. Mike Doyle (D-Pa.) and Rep. Joe Barton (R-Texas) for lunch on Capitol Hill. Doyle is managing the Democrats, and Barton is managing the Republicans in the upcoming Congressional Baseball Game at Nationals Park June 15. "The two managers were seeking advice and managerial tips from Dusty Baker in preparation for the game." ***Pics*** http://politi.co/2qRWvjH ... http://politi.co/2qSacPL

BIG CONGRATULATIONS to Rachel Overboe, graduate of Harvard Business School class of 2017! (h/t your biggest fans: Jmom, Lynn, Leah, John and Anna)

TRANSITIONS: David Leiter, a Capitol Hill veteran, Clinton Administration alum, and former president of ML Strategies, has launched a new government relations firm called Plurus Strategies. Also joining the firm are Georgette Spanjich as VP and Sarah Litke as senior director. http://bit.ly/2qj3Kyv ... **Zain Habboo** is joining Fenton as its first chief digital officer. She is currently senior director for digital and marketing strategy at the

United Nations Foundation and is a National Geographic alum.

WELCOME TO THE WORLD - Tallahassee Mayor Andrew Gillum, candidate for governor of Florida, and **R. Jai Gillum,** director of foundation affairs at the Florida Dental Association: "Last Monday, May 15, we welcomed Davis Allen Gillum to the world! He arrived healthy at 8 pounds, 3 ounces. His twin siblings, 3-year-olds Caroline and Jackson, love having a new baby brother. ... Dad has taken some time off the campaign trail to be on Daddy Duty!" ***Pic*** http://politi.co/2rk7gNt

NSC DEPARTURE LOUNGE - Yesterday was **Ben Levine** 's last day on the NSC - he was special assistant for global economics and finance at the NSC under President Barack Obama and then the beginning of the new administration. He served on Obama's reelection campaign, worked at Treasury including in Secretary Jack Lew's executive office and was a policy analyst for the Financial Stability Oversight Council. Beginning in August, he's continuing his graduate studies at Georgetown University's McDonough School of Business as a full-time MBA student.

BIRTHDAY OF THE DAY: David Martosko, U.S. political editor for The Daily Mail. How he's celebrating: "I'll be on assignment for DailyMail.com on May 25 covering the president's overseas trip, but my wife and daughters are taking me to a Nationals game when I return." Read his Playbook Plus Q&A: http://politi.co/2qf9PAd

BIRTHDAYS: Sen. Amy Klobuchar is 57 ... Politico's Anna Palmer, the pride of Kindred, N.D. ... Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan is 61 -- he's celebrating with a quiet dinner with his family and grandchildren, including his new grandson Cam ... Emily Bittner ... former White House news secretary Ron Nessen is 83 ... Kate Ackley Zeller, reporter at CQ Roll Call ... James "Britton" Rethmeier, son of Caton and Blaine, is 10 ... Mike Russell, bourbon authority, avid diver and SVP at CRC Public Relations ... Argentina turns 107 on its Revolution Day and Jordan turns 71 on its Independence Day ... Megan Van Etten, director of media and external comms at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce (hat tip: Blair Latoff Holmes) ... Tim Zenk, VP of business development, new markets and technology at Phytelligence Inc. ... Laurie Rubiner, chief of staff for Sen. Richard Blumenthal, celebrating with Chris (h/ts Jon Haber) ... Alycyn Keeling ... Rep. Steve Russell (R-Okla.) is 54 ... former Rep. Ed Whitfield (R-Ky.) is 74 ... John Flynn ... Britt Kahn, Conan O'Brien political booker (h/t Tammy Haddad) ...

...Greg Bluestein , politics reporter for the Atlanta Journal-Constitution who has done a bang up job covering the race for Tom Price's old congressional seat in Georgia (h/t David Pittman) ... Savannah Haeger, an associate at Hamilton Place Strategies and the pride of Lake Zurich, Ill. (h/t Julie Sarne) ... Dorrance Smith, CEO of The New Analytics Company ... Human Rights Campaign's Hayley Miller ... Courtney Joline ... Sean Rushton, founder and director of the Project on Exchange Rates and the Dollar and a Ted Cruz alum ... Alice Germond ... Lesley Sillaman ... Capricia Marshall ... Lauren Werner (h/ts Teresa Vilmain) ... Beth Foster ... Politico alum Jennifer Martinez, now at Brew Media Relations ... Margaret Dobrydnio ... NYT alum Carla Robbins, now adjunct senior fellow at CFR ... Phil Karsting ... James Dellinger ... Steve Petersen ... Bob

Loughlin ... Tali Looney ... Carol Thompson ... Jim Doak ... Conor Powell, Fox News foreign correspondent, is 4-0 ... Alice Mooney ... Jason Lilly ... Olympic gold medal gymnast Aly Raisman is 23 (h/t Jewish Insider) ... Brian Flaherty, SVP of public policy at CBIA ... Matthew Colbert ... Matt Lakin is 37 ... Alan Brody ... Charlie Fromstein ... actor Sir Ian McKellen is 78 ... actor-comedian Mike Myers is 54 (h/ts AP)

****** **A message from the Coalition for Affordable Prescription Drugs (CAPD):** One in two Americans rely on their employers to provide health care benefits. So, employers partner with PBMs to provide access to effective medications at the most affordable price. PBMs drive savings in part by using clinical expertise to identify generic alternatives that achieve the same health outcomes for a lower price. With generics accounting for 89 percent of prescriptions filled in 2015, but only 27 percent of drug costs, that represents a savings of $227 billion across the U.S. health care system in just one year. Learn more at www.affordableprescriptiondrugs.org. ******

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To: Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
From: POLITICO Pro Energy Whiteboard
Sent: Thur 6/8/2017 2:15:29 PM
Subject: Former EERE officials unified in opposing Trump cuts

By Darius Dixon

06/08/2017 10:10 AM EDT

Seven former leaders of the Energy Department's renewable energy office — across Republican and Democratic administrations — are asking lawmakers to reject President Donald Trump's proposal to make deep cuts to the program.

"While we have not always agreed on the relative emphasis of various elements of the EERE budget we are unified that cuts of this magnitude in the proposed FY18 budget will do serious harm to this office's critical work and America's energy future," the ex-officials wrote today in a letter to House and Senate energy appropriators.

Trump's fiscal 2018 DOE budget calls for slashing EERE's budget by 69 percent — from $2.07 billion to $636 million.

The letter is signed by two assistant secretaries for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy who served in the George W. Bush administration, and four who worked in the Clinton and Obama administrations. They were also joined by Mike Davis, who led EERE's predecessor office under President George H.W. Bush. A similar letter was also sent to Energy Secretary Rick Perry and various officials in the administration.

"This is a particularly inauspicious time to cut the EERE budget," the former officials wrote, warning of China's spending on renewable energy technology. "World-wide investment in clean energy now measures in the hundreds of billions of dollars annually."

They added: "We ignore China's resolve — and success to date — at our peril."

WHAT'S NEXT: The 2018 fiscal year begins Oct. 1 but Congress is behind in its normal appropriations schedule and subcommittee spending chiefs do not yet have the funding levels they need to craft their bills in earnest.

To view online:
https://www.politicopro.com/energy/whiteboard/2017/06/former-eere-officials-unified-in-opposing-trump-cuts-088797

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To: Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
From: Morning Transportation
Sent: Mon 6/5/2017 2:03:52 PM
Subject: POLITICO's Morning Transportation, presented by Delta Air Lines: The infrastructure week remix — Who's in, out of Trump's ATC plan — Commuter railroads to huddle on PTC progress

By Lauren Gardner and Tanya Snyder | 06/05/2017 10:00 AM EDT

With help from Stephanie Beasley and Daniel Lippman

THIS IS THE REMIX: ... to Infrastructure Week, everyone. The White House announced Saturday it's kicking off its own week of infrastructure festivities, starting with "legislative principles" President Donald Trump will sign today outlining his vision for Congress to split air traffic control operations away from the FAA, your MT co-host reports for Pros. House Transportation Committee Chairman Bill Shuster (R-Pa.), whose ATC spinoff legislation is the basis for the White House plan, is expected to join Trump for the White House announcement today, and your Pro Transportation scribes have some early details.

The principles: Our Kathryn A. Wolfe snagged a copy of the White House principles, which called Shuster's 2016 bill a "good foundation" that needs improvement and indicated the administration will back any effort that hews to myriad concepts pertaining to fees, governance, labor and national security. The document also states that "the new entity 'must maintain access and services to rural communities and general aviation users' but doesn't outline how, beyond that DoD, diplomatic and public safety aircraft will be exempt from any fees," Kathy reports.

The principles, again: Your MT co-host obtained another copy of the principles late Sunday containing more details on the administration's expectations for military access and its ideal makeup of the board that would oversee the new ATC body. The administration's proposal would give commercial airlines two seats on the board, as opposed to the four they commanded under Shuster's 2016 bill. The controllers' and pilots' unions would be represented by two seats, while general aviation and airports would each get a seat. The government would have two representatives. Those eight members would choose a CEO and then select four independent members to round things out.

WHO'S IN/OUT: Nothing in either document suggests that general aviation users will be exempt from whatever fee structure the new governing body would set - and that more than likely means general aviation groups won't get behind Trump's plan. However, it appears to include the principles that the National Air Traffic Controllers Association required to support Shuster's bill, primarily that they will essentially be able to retain their current pay and benefit structure under the new plan (which the union stressed to The New York Times must be a nonprofit entity for their support to remain steady). That spells, essentially, much the same battle lines as have already been drawn, assuming other tweaks the White House outlines aren't enough to sway either side.

Lines in the sand: That all means the White House will have to court the myriad interest groups that have painted their own bright lines since Shuster began his effort in earnest. General aviation groups don't want user fees assessed against their usage of national airspace, and have

worried about their representation on the board. National Economic Council Director Gary Cohn said Friday the administration will embrace user fees in lieu of the current excise tax system, but didn't get into specifics. Rural airports want to be sure they can maintain service; Cohn vowed that they and GA pilots would be "protected" under the overhaul.

Wait, there's more: The makeup of the corporation's board is another major item to watch as aviation interests digest the administration's position. Shuster's 2016 bill would have given commercial airlines and their allies in labor the greatest share of board seats, a proposal that didn't sit well with many. Democrats have made a stink about the Pentagon not getting any representation on the board when DoD plays a significant role in monitoring U.S. airspace, and Trump's respect for the military is well-known. But any tinkering to its makeup could threaten the buy-in Shuster had previously won from his coalition of supporters - though key players like Senate Commerce Chairman John Thune (R-S.D.) have already said changes must be made to the earlier iteration of the legislation to convince members with significant interests in the GA community to back any major ATC changes.

Not to be outdone: Throughout the week, Trump will highlight his vision for other transportation modes like roads, rail and inland waterways. He'll make a speech highlighting rural infrastructure Wednesday along the Ohio River and will visit DOT headquarters on Friday to talk about the federal permitting process.

WELCOME TO MONDAY: Thanks for tuning in to POLITICO's Morning Transportation, your daily tipsheet on all things trains, planes, automobiles and ports. Send us tips, feedback and lyrics to tsnyder@politico.com or @TSnyderDC and lgardner@politico.com or @Gardner_LM.

"They say, walking women home is a thing of the past / Women want to ride and ride around in class / Some like Cadillacs, boys, some like Fords / Some like anything as long as it rolls." (h/t John Edwards, Norfolk Southern Corporation)

Want to keep up with MT's song picks? Follow our Spotify playlist.

WILL DEMS PLAY BALL? Democrats' outrage over the Trump administration's decision to stonewall lawmakers' requests for information unless they come from committee or subcommittee chairmen could make them less eager to work with the administration on infrastructure, reports John Bresnahan.

PTC HELP WANTED: The American Public Transportation Association is holding an all-day meeting Wednesday with commuter railroads, FRA and congressional staff "to share lessons learned that will help commuter rail systems implement the federally mandated positive train control installation deadline," per a spokeswoman. DOT just announced a slew of grants to railroads to help them with PTC implementation by the end of 2018, but some commuter lines are lagging behind their counterparts to the point where FRA officials don't expect all of them to hit enough milestones to even qualify for a limited extension up to 2020 allowed under the law.

The latest numbers: FRA published the first quarter 2017 statistics on PTC implementation Friday, and passenger railroads are still inching along compared to freight carriers responsible

for a far greater share of route miles and locomotives. The number of passenger route miles in PTC operation even declined a percentage point between the first quarter of 2017 and the last quarter of 2016, due to some track being taken offline.

What they're saying: Grant recipients MT reached said they would either meet the 2018 deadline outright (though some hedged and said they expect to), or hit enough of the benchmarks to qualify for additional time. Many commuter lines have had a harder time complying with the requirement due to cost and resource constraints, which is why Congress authorized and appropriated nearly $200 million in grants for them to get the technology installed. But others - like Metrolink in Southern California and Philadelphia's SEPTA - stayed well ahead of the deadline and are close to having their systems certified, leaving some wondering why other big-city systems like Chicago's Metra and Boston's Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority are straggling.

What they'll say: Congressional staff isn't expected to have much appetite for entertaining more wiggle room for railroads, though keep in mind we're still a year and a half away from the cutoff. FRA's hands are pretty tied under the law, and Obama-era Administrator Sarah Feinberg threatened noncompliant railroads with daily fines if they chose to flout the mandate's original 2015 deadline. But before Congress granted the extension, railroads had warned lawmakers of an unprecedented halt to interstate commerce that would occur under the status quo, as most would likely decide to stop operating altogether rather than taking on the liability of breaking the law. It'll be a tough sell to get Congress to provide more relief, given the structure of the current deadline and the progress made by some major commuter agencies.

** **A message from Delta Air Lines:** Our daily briefing: At Delta we're constantly innovating to make your travel smoother. We tapped RFID technology to keep your bags in check at all times. Giving you more peace of mind from check-in to baggage claim. Learn more: delta.com/dca **

THE WEEK AHEAD:

Monday - Trump signs legislative principles on an air traffic control overhaul at the White House. NHTSA kicks off a weeklong conference in Detroit on vehicle safety developments. Transportation Secretary Elaine Chao is expected to attend.

Tuesday - Homeland Security Secretary John Kelly will testify before the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee on the department's fiscal 2018 budget request. The National Air Transportation Association holds its annual Aviation Business Conference, and association members will meet with Senate offices to discuss the upcoming FAA reauthorization.

Wednesday - Chao will appear before the Senate Commerce Committee to testify on FAA reauthorization. Later that evening, she will deliver remarks at a dinner hosted by the Competitive Enterprise Institute. The House Transportation Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation will hold a hearing on the Coast Guard's air, land and sea capabilities.

Thursday - Chao will testify before the House Transportation Committee on the FAA reauthorization. Senate Commerce holds a hearing to consider executive branch nominees,

including Derek Kan to be undersecretary of transportation for policy and Robert Sumwalt to be member and vice chairman of the National Transportation Safety Board. The Hudson Institute hosts an infrastructure event featuring Sen. John Boozman (R-Ark.) and Virginia Transportation Secretary Aubrey Layne.

Friday - Trump will be at DOT to announce more details on his infrastructure plan.

FMCSA PUTS BRAKES ON CRASH COMPENSATION HIKE: Bus and truck groups are celebrating the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration's decision to withdraw an advanced notice of proposed rulemaking that would have raised insurance requirements for buses and trucks so that they match the rising costs of medical care. As our Stephanie Beasley reports for Pros, the agency announced Friday that it would withdraw the proposal, saying that it did not have sufficient data to support the change. The Owner-Operator Independent Drivers Association quickly issued a statement celebrating the demise of what they considered a "potentially devastating regulation" for small truck companies. The American Bus Association agreed, saying individual companies can best determine what level of insurance is appropriate.

WHO'S MINDING THE MINDERS? The FAA's system for training and evaluating check pilots - those that oversee and evaluate the commercial pilots - isn't working, says a report released Friday by DOT's Inspector General. The IG estimates that the FAA can't verify that 204 of 3,334 check pilots received mandatory training or reviews by an FAA inspector. Further, the people who oversee check pilots are also not being properly authorized, with the FAA unable to prove the proper training and observation of as many as 41 percent of them between 2011 and 2015. Check pilots are also failing to meet requirements for recurring training and observation. Tanya has more for Pros.

READ 'EM AND WEEP: FTA posted a bunch of WMATA's safety inspection data and corrective action plans online Friday. FTA has had direct safety oversight of WMATA since October 2015 and makes no bones about the fact that it's looking forward to being rid of it - though first, Virginia, Maryland and the District of Columbia have to build a State Safety Oversight Program that complies with federal guidelines, something FTA has complained is taking too long. Inspection reports, SafeTrack data, oversight reports and more are now available for the viewing pleasure of transit nerds and masochists.

POST-TURKEY DAY DELAY: FRA has delayed its system safety rule for passenger railroads for another six months, the agency announced late Friday in a pre-publication notice in the Federal Register. The agency says it needs the longer window to review petitions for reconsideration; some state DOTs that sponsor rail service have expressed concern that they're considered "railroads" responsible for developing risk reduction plans under the rule when they don't actually operate trains.

MT MAILBAG: Thune and ranking member Bill Nelson (D-Fla.) asked Transportation Secretary Elaine Chao Friday for answers about the Takata airbag recall. The move came the day after Nelson released new independent figures showing that two-thirds of airbag inflators subject to the recall have yet to be repaired or replaced. More for Pros here.

ARRIVAL LOUNGE: *Heath Hall* starts this week as FRA's deputy administrator. The Mississippi native has a public relations background and did stints early in his career in the George H.W. Bush administration. *Reagan Payne* is starting on June 12 at Cruise Automation, an autonomous vehicle startup out of San Francisco that was acquired by GM last year. She'll be on Rebecca Mark's D.C.-based government relations team and will manage the eastern region. Payne previously worked for Rep. Susan Brooks (R-Ind.).

THE AUTOBAHN:

- "Supreme Court sets deadline for travel ban filings." POLITICO.

- "Fresh safety concerns hang over global airlines conference." Reuters.

- "G.M. Wants to Drive the Future of Cars That Drive Themselves." The New York Times.

- "In Germany, Metro's troubles garner sympathy from around the world." The Washington Post.

- "Trump's sluggish hiring could hamper anti-terror plans." POLITICO.

- "America's Truckers Embrace Big Brother After Costing Insurers Millions." The Wall Street Journal.

THE COUNTDOWN: DOT appropriations run out in 118 days. The FAA reauthorization expires in 118 days. Highway and transit policy is up for renewal in 1,214 days.

** **A message from Delta Air Lines:** Our daily briefing: At Delta we're constantly innovating to make your travel smoother. We tapped into RFID technology to keep your bags in check at all times. Giving you more peace of mind from check-in to baggage claim.

Our pursuit of constantly solving problems doesn't stop there. Turbulence is notoriously difficult to predict. That's why we developed our industry-leading Flight Weather Viewer app. It helps our pilots better spot and avoid unexpected turbulence with real-time graphics of observations and forecasts on the flight deck. Making your journey smoother while also reducing our carbon footprint.
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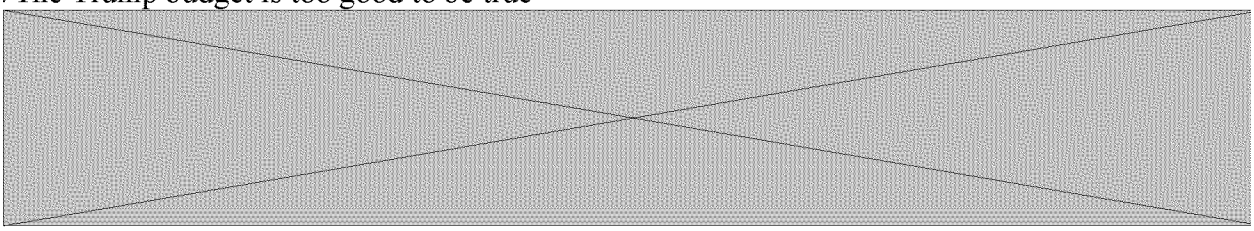
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. The Trump budget is too good to be true



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Reuters

The Trump budget is too good to be true

Alan D. Viard | The Hill

The budget plan that President Trump released yesterday promises a bright future, with the federal budget reaching balance in 2027. That would be quite a feat — the budget has been balanced only four of the past 48 years. It sounds too good to be true. Regrettably, it is. The administration's plan relies on three unrealistic assumptions to produce the mirage of a balanced budget, starting with trillions of dollars in unspecified revenue.

Reuters

Two allies hold the keys to NATO's future

Gary J. Schmitt | Real Clear Defense

The much-anticipated NATO summit is just hours away. On paper, the United Kingdom remains committed to playing an outsized role globally, but its resources make doing so less

and less likely. Meanwhile, Germany has the resources to increase its capabilities, but Berlin is still reluctant to put its money where its mouth is. NATO is far from being "obsolete," but Germany and the UK are in danger of falling short of what they must do to prevent it.

Reuters

The defense budget is dead on arrival

Mackenzie Eaglen | The National Interest

President Trump's first defense budget is a more muscular version of the Obama plan. It is a budget that begins to repair — but does not rebuild — the US military. The request comports with guidance from Secretary of Defense Jim Mattis to focus investments on readiness, people, and facilities. What it doesn't do is live up to congressional expectations to align resources with strategy after years of a growing mismatch.

Twenty20

The dark side of paid parental leave

James Pethokoukis | The Week

Donald Trump is the first Republican president to offer a national paid family leave plan, a result of daughter Ivanka's insistence. No one is going to accuse the president of mindlessly copying what other advanced economies do for families: This plan is much more modest than a lavish universal system a la Sweden. But how much thought has been given to the inescapable trade-offs from establishing a national paid leave plan?

More from AEI

The Manchester bombing is a wake-up call for America and Europe

Katherine Zimmerman | The Hill

Testimony: 3 keys to reducing poverty in diverse communities

Robert Doar | Statement before the Virginia General Assembly's Commission on Economic Opportunity for Virginians in Aspiring and Diverse Communities

American families deserve paid leave, but concerns remain about the Trump proposal to get there

Aparna Mathur | The Hill

Why is telecommunications taxed like a sin?

Mark Jamison | TechPolicyDaily.com

The pros and cons of President Trump's higher-ed budget

Preston Cooper | Forbes

Disband the congressional Turkey Caucus

Michael Rubin | Washington Examiner

Another sign of America's declining dynamism, in a chart

James Pethokoukis | AEIdeas

Testimony: The federal government issues 90 percent of student loans, and data indicate the system isn't working

Jason D. Delisle | Testimony before the House Committee on Education and the Workforce

The Middle East rolled out the red carpet for President Trump. Will he fall for it?

Jonah Goldberg | National Review Online

Republican budgets are clever, educational misdirections — the latest being no exception

James Pethokoukis | AEIdeas

Watch: New Mexico's education secretary shares what she's learned about reform

Frederick M. Hess | AEI Viewpoint video

Bad business as usual at the World Health Organization

Roger Bate | AEIdeas

4 things to expect from Rouhani's reelection as president of Iran

Marie Donovan | AEIdeas

Watch live today: Saving veterans from the disability trap on the way from war to work

Gary J. Schmitt, Sally Satel, and Thomas Donnelly | AEI event today at 12:25 PM ET

Last chance to RSVP: The road ahead for historically black colleges and universities

Gerard Robinson | AEI event tomorrow at 9:00 AM ET

Who'd a-thunk it? Like most central planning, public transit systems are costly and often don't serve the public very well

Mark J. Perry | AEIdeas

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By JAKE SHERMAN (sherman@politico.com; @JakeSherman), ANNA PALMER (anna@politico.com; @apalmerdc), DANIEL LIPPMAN (daniel@politico.com; @dlippman), ZACH MONTELLARO (zmontellaro@politico.com; @ZachMontellaro)

WILD FRIDAY! -- THE BIGGEST NEWS OF THE DAY -- AMAZON IS BUYING WHOLE FOODS! -- WSJ's Austen Hufford and Annie Gasparro: "Amazon Inc. said it would buy Whole Foods Market Inc. for $13.7 billion as the giant internet retailer makes a deeper push into the grocery space.

"Amazon will pay $42 a share for Whole Foods, valuing the grocer at a 27% premium to its closing price Thursday. The deal is expected to close in the second half of this year. In recent years, Amazon has expanded its online grocery business, AmazonFresh, after testing it in its hometown Seattle for years. Earlier this year, the company said it would launch a new grocery-store pickup service....

"While grocery accounts for a large component of consumer sales overall , online retailers have largely been unable to fully crack the code. They face hurdles like consumers wanting to pick their own produce and the need to deliver perishable, fresh and frozen food to people's homes. Adding a network of grocery stores could help Amazon tackle those issues. Whole Foods has roughly 450 locations spread out across 42 states. The move could allow Amazon to reach customers closer to their homes and even sell more than just groceries. Amazon's bookstores also sell its electronic products like book readers, tablets and media streaming devices." http://on.wsj.com/2siRFLt ... ***Check out the stunningly simple SEC report for the nearly $14 billion deal*** http://bit.ly/2rnufmT

-- A well timed profile on Whole Foods' founder John Mackey from Texas Monthly http://bit.ly/2tagucG

Good Friday afternoon. Two years ago to the day, Donald Trump descended down a golden escalator in Trump Tower to launch his campaign for president. **DRIVING TODAY -- THE PRESIDENT** appeared to confirm he was under investigation.

WHITE HOUSE STATEMENTS -- @realDonaldTrump on Twitter at **7:53 a.m.** : "After 7 months of investigations & committee hearings about my 'collusion with the Russians,' nobody has been able to show any proof. Sad!" ... **at 8:53 a.m.:** "The Fake News Media hates when I use what has turned out to be my very powerful Social Media - over 100 million people! I can go around them" ... **8:54 a.m.:** "Despite the phony Witch Hunt

going on in America, the economic & jobs numbers are great. Regulations way down, jobs and enthusiasm way up!" ... **at 9:07 a.m.:** "I am being investigated for firing the FBI Director by the man who told me to fire the FBI Director! Witch Hunt"

OUTSTANDING ITEMS ALERT -- Tax reform is nowhere close to done. An infrastructure plan hasn't been released. Debt ceiling needs to be lifted. Government needs to be funded.

PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP largely stuck to the script in his speech announcing his new Cuba policies in Miami. He returned to his election-night victory several times while discussing rolling back much of Obama's efforts to change relations with Cuba. He said, "I am canceling the last administration's one-sided deal with Cuba." Much of Trump's Cuba policy was previously reported by our POLITICO Florida colleagues Marc Caputo and Daniel Ducassi. http://politi.co/2taVans

HE DID NOT address any potential investigations or his tweets from this morning.

TRUMP SAID REP. STEVE SCALISE "took a bullet for all of us. And because of him and the tremendous pain and suffering he's now enduring -- he's having a hard time, far worse than anybody thought -- our country will perhaps become closer, more unified. So important. So we all owe Steve a big, big thank you."

THE PRESIDENT ALSO tried to encourage Florida Gov. Rick Scott into running for Senate: "Oh, I hope he runs for the Senate. I know I'm not supposed to say that. I hope he runs for the Senate. Rick, are you running? Huh? Huh? I don't know, Marco, let's go. C'mon we've got to get him to -- I hope he runs for the Senate."

-- RUBIO tweets he wrote the policy: "**@marcorubio** : "Picture of the night @MarioDB and I hammered out the new Cuba policy. Thankful for his leadership! #cubancoffee #BetterDealforCuba http://bit.ly/2ro9sjc" ***With a photo of Rubio and Rep. Mario Diaz Balart (R-Fla.).***

-- CONTRAST. When the president went to Saudi Arabia, he said "We are not here to tell other people how to live, what to do, who to be, or how to worship." But a main premise of choking off business to Cuba is that the Castro regime oppresses its people. National Security Council spokesman Michael Anton spoke to the press on the comparison, per pooler S.V. Date of HuffPost: "I dispute that he has a lack of interest in human rights in other countries."

BIG NEWS -- "Deputy attorney general privately acknowledges he may need to recuse himself from Russia probe," by ABC News' Mike Levine and Pierre Thomas: "The senior Justice Department official with ultimate authority over the special counsel's probe of Russia's alleged meddling in the 2016 election has privately acknowledged to colleagues that he may have to recuse himself from the matter, which he took charge of only after Attorney General Jeff Sessions' own recusal, sources tell ABC News.

"Those private remarks from Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein are significant because they reflect the widening nature of the federal probe, which now includes a preliminary inquiry into whether President Donald Trump attempted to obstruct justice when he allegedly tried to curtail the probe and then fired James Comey as FBI director. Rosenstein, who authored an extensive and publicly-released memorandum recommending Comey's firing, raised the possibility of his recusal during a recent meeting with Associate Attorney General Rachel Brand, the Justice Department's new third-in-command, according to sources." http://abcn.ws/2tadX2a

'THE MOST IMPORTANT EUROPEAN STATESMAN SINCE WWII' -- "Helmut Kohl, Chancellor Who Reunited a Divided Germany, Dies at 87," by NYT's Craig R. Whitney: "Helmut Kohl, who reunified Germany after 45 years of Cold War division and promoted grand visions of European integration, but ended his political career in disgrace over an opaque party fund-raising scandal, died on Friday at his home in Ludwigshafen, Germany, the Rhine port city where he was born. He was 87. ... A physically imposing man - he stood 6 feet 4 inches and weighed well over 300 pounds in his leadership years - Mr. Kohl pursued his and his country's political interests as Germany's chancellor with persistent, even stubborn, determination. He could be 'an elephant in a china shop,' as he described himself in a memoir, and overcame European opposition to unification the same way he handled political opposition at home: by the force of a jovial yet dominating personality." http://nyti.ms/2s97gii ... ***Bill Clinton on Kohl in 2011*** http://bit.ly/2sADkNt

-- Former President George H.W. Bush's statement on Kohl's death: "Working closely with my very good friend to help achieve a peaceful end to the Cold War and the unification of Germany within NATO will remain one of the great joys of my life. Throughout our endeavors, Helmut was a rock -- both steady and strong." ***Full statement*** http://bit.ly/2sAMv0G

TRUMP'S ENTOURAGE -- Trump had a slew of stop aides, cabinet officials and lawmakers in tow for his Miami trip today. H.R. McMaster, Dan Scavino, Stephen Miller, Keith Schiller and the president's physician Ronny Jackson were all along for the trip, according to the pooler. Also accompanying Trump: Sen. Marco Rubio, Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue, Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross and Labor Secretary Alex Acosta. Reps. Carlos Curbelo and Mario Diaz-Balart were also on the flight to Miami.

LAWYER UP -- SCOOP from **@KatyTurNBC: "**Exclusive: Trump personal lawyer, Michael Cohen, has hired his own counsel: Stephen Ryan, of McDermott, Will & Emery.- source w knowledge ... Cohen will testify in front of House Intel on Sept 5. House intel source says the delay is due to scheduling and logistics. ... Michael Caputo, brought on to Trump campaign by Manafort, has been contacted by the FBI - source with knowledge. ... Caputo has hired Dennis Vacco as counsel. House Intel is trying to schedule him for mid-July. Source says Caputo wants open hearing. ... Source adds FBI wanted to talk to Caputo BEFORE he speaks with House Intel."

COME TOGETHER? -- "Schumer asks for all 100 senators to meet on health care,"

by Seung Min Kim and Jen Haberkorn: "In a new letter to Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.), the New York Democrat is asking all 100 senators to gather in the Old Senate Chamber next week to discuss health care - a tactic Democrats hope will pressure Republicans to drop their push to repeal Obamacare and instead work on fixes to the seven-year-old law." http://politi.co/2sAFrkG

-- @IsaacDovere: "gov't by stunt"

PUSHBACK -- "White House casts doubt on Russia's claim it killed ISIS leader," by Matthew Nussbaum: "The White House is casting doubt on Russia's claim that its forces killed Islamic State leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi in a late May airstrike in Syria. A senior administration official says Russia would have 'various different motives' for making such a claim, and the U.S. is not prepared to risk its credibility by corroborating the statement without independent evidence.

"The official also noted that Russia's claim that the strike killed more than 300 ISIS fighters is raising eyebrows in the national security community. 'That's the type of magnitude that we would think we would've already seen reflections of,' the senior administration official said today." http://politi.co/2taDmJ9

AFTERNOON READ -- "From Russia with Blood," by BuzzFeed News' Heidi Blake, Tom Warren, Richard Holmes, Jason Leopold, Jane Bradley and Alex Campbell: "The London square was still and cold when the body fell, dropping silently through the moonlight and landing with a thud. Impaled through the chest on the spikes of a wrought iron fence, it dangled under the streetlamps as blood spilled onto the pavement. Overhead, a fourth-floor window stood open, the lights inside burning.

"The dead man was Scot Young. The one-time multimillionaire and fixer to the world's super-rich had been telling friends, family, and the police for years that he was being targeted by a team of Russian hitmen - ever since his fortune vanished overnight in a mysterious Moscow property deal. He was the ninth in a circle of friends and business associates to die in suspicious circumstances. But when the police entered his penthouse that night, they didn't even dust for fingerprints. They declared his death a suicide on the spot and closed the case.

"A two-year investigation by BuzzFeed News has now uncovered explosive evidence pointing to Russia that the police overlooked. A massive trove of documents, phone records, and secret recordings shows Young was part of a circle of nine men, including the exiled oligarch Boris Berezovsky, who all died suspiciously on British soil after making powerful enemies in Russia. ... British police declared the deaths of all nine men in Berezovsky's circle non-suspicious, but BuzzFeed News can now reveal that MI6, Britain's secret intelligence service, asked its US counterparts for information about each one of them 'in the context of assassinations.'" http://bzfd.it/2tad5L1

COMING ATTRACTIONS -- Chicago Mayor **Rahm Emanuel** will speak on June 20 at the National Press Club's headliners luncheon series *Tickets* http://bit.ly/2sAqzmk

NEW BOOK -- Mark Penn is penning a sequel to his NYT bestseller Microtrends called Microtrends Squared with **Meredith Fineman**. The book has a March 2018 release date. http://bit.ly/2sACtMM

OUT AND ABOUT -- The Monthly, a long running D.C. event for Silicon Valley expats, celebrated their 4 year anniversary yesterday. **SPOTTED:** Gideon Lett, David Mack, Gabe Rivera, Mike Marinello, Sam Grobart, Sarah Heck, Vikrum Aiyer, Jamie Corley, Rebecca Mark, Laura Pinto, Luther Lowe, Angela Martin, Amelia McLear, Jamil Poonja and Stacy Koo.

-- Tom Perriello and his campaign team gathered Thursday at FireFlies in Del Ray for goodbye drinks. **SPOTTED:** Tom Perriello (drink of choice, we've been told: whiskey, neat), Ian Sams, Remi Yamamoto, Brennan Gilmore, Ashwin Manicka, Linh Nguyen, Ernie Britt, Adnan Mohamed, Rachael Klarman, Sam Fulwood, Chris Westefeld, Jessica Aune, Gabi Tudin.

-- The American University of Afghanistan had their annual awards dinner last night at the Four Seasons, in which they gave awards to retired Gen. David Petraeus and UAE Amb. Yousef Al-Otaiba. The event, emceed by Michelle Kosinski, was organized by Samantha Vinograd and Morgan Ortagus who met in Baghdad in 2007. http://bit.ly/2sxG8dI

SPOTTED: Afghan Amb. Hamdullah Mohib and his wife Lael, Anthony Scaramucci chatting with Petraeus, Evelyn Farkas, Michael Crowley, Suzanne Kianpour, Adm. Eric Olson, Teri Galvez, Croatian Amb. Josip Park, Steve Glenn, Paula Dobriansky, David Sedney, Gen. Mark Martin, Ret. Gen. John Campbell, Leslie Schweitzer, Akram and Lou Elias, Huda Farouki, Joby Warrick, Ken Holland, David Tafuri, Reg Brown.

SPOTTED: Sen. Ted Cruz (R-Texas) on a 6:59 a.m. flight from DCA to DFW. Also seen in DCA: Sen. David Perdue (R-Ga.) and Rep. Louie Gohmert (R-Texas). ... Ivanka Trump waiting in line at Starbucks on Connecticut and R Street -- *pic* http://bit.ly/2tacubZ ... Retiring South Florida GOP Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen at DCA while President Donald Trump had already landed in the sunshine state.

FRIDAY TREAT -- MILEY CYRUS and **JIMMY FALLON** did a surprise concert in a Subway station in New York. What a town! http://bit.ly/2taf561

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Subject: POLITICO's Morning Energy: Pruitt still won't clarify Trump's climate views — More governors double down on climate action — Major week for energy nominations

By Anthony Adragna | 06/05/2017 10:00 AM EDT

PRUITT MAKES THE CIRCUIT: Climate change dominated the Sunday show circuit for the first time in years, but EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt again dodged nearly a dozen questions asking whether President Donald Trump still rejects the science showing that human activity is driving the problem and continues to consider it a "hoax." He instead stuck to familiar talking points that the administration's decision to withdraw from the Paris climate agreement was because it was a "bad deal" for the U.S. that will harm economic growth. "Frankly, George, I think the whole question is an effort to get it off the point and the issue of whether Paris is good for this country or not," Pruitt said on on ABC's "This Week ." "And the president has indicated the climate changes."

But he didn't get a free ride: "Fox News Sunday's" Chris Wallace peppered Pruitt with aggressive questioning about the decision, asking incredulously how the underlying science of climate change never came up during months of discussions about Paris. After displaying statistics showing there are more than twice as many solar energy employees as those in coal, Wallace asked if the administration's efforts to try to bring back coal are akin to "protecting the horse and buggy business just as cars come online?" Pruitt shot back: "Absolutely not."

ICYMI: Pro's Alex Guillén examines Pruitt's move into the spotlight and inner orbit of Trump world as he helped convince the president to withdraw from the climate deal.

Another Trump administration official, U.N. Ambassador Nikki Haley, asserted to CNN's "State of the Union" that Trump's views are part of the mainstream consensus. "President Trump believes the climate is changing and he believes pollutants are part of the equation," she said. Haley also downplayed concerns leaving the Paris deal would hurt U.S. diplomatic efforts globally. "I don't think we're the skunk at the party," she said. "Just because we got out of a club doesn't mean that we don't care about the environment."

ME's caution: If you want to know how Trump views climate science, best to hear it directly from his mouth.

GORE SLAMS 'RECKLESS' WITHDRAWAL: Pruitt wasn't the only one talking climate on the Sunday shows: former Vice President Al Gore appeared to bash Trump's decision while also expressing hope the U.S. would still hit the Obama administration emissions reduction pledges thanks to the efforts of states, mayors and businesses. "I think it was indefensible and undermines America's standing in the world and threatens the ability of humanity to solve the climate crisis in time," Gore said on CNN.

Zing! Former Secretary of State John Kerry on NBC's "Meet the Press": "When Donald Trump says to the world, 'Well, we're going to negotiate a better deal,' I mean, you know, he's

going to go out and find a better deal? I mean, that's like O.J. Simpson saying he's going to go out and find the real killer. Everybody knows he isn't going to do that."

WELCOME TO MONDAY! I'm your host Anthony Adragna, and the Southern Environmental Law Center's Navis Bermudez correctly picked New Hampshire as the only state in the country without a mandatory seatbelt law. Next up: What's the only state where you can't buy beer, wine and liquor from almost all stores on Sunday? Send your tips, energy gossip and comments to aadragna@politico.com, or follow us on Twitter @AnthonyAdragna, @Morning_Energy, and @POLITICOPro.

OTHERS DOUBLE DOWN - GOP governors join climate alliance: Two Republican Northeastern governors - Massachusetts' Charlie Baker and Vermont's Phil Scott - announced Friday they would join the expanding coalition of U.S. states seeking to uphold the goals of the Paris deal. Along with founding states California, Washington and New York, other participants in the U.S. Climate Alliance now include Connecticut, Hawaii, Oregon and Rhode Island.

No retreat by Modi: Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi showed no signs of stepping back from his country's efforts to address climate change - pointedly calling it the biggest threat facing humanity, along with terrorism - during his first bilateral meeting with French President Emmanuel Macron, POLITICO Europe's Silvia Sciorilli Borrelli reports. "I believe the Paris agreement is a collective asset of the world, this is will also be an asset to the coming generations," Modi said, according to a report by New Delhi TV. "It is our responsibility to protect mother earth." India, the world's third largest emitter, vowed to stick with the accord despite Trump's withdrawal.

Australia's Foreign Minister Julie Bishop reiterated her country's commitment to the Paris Agreement during a Sunday speech. "The EU and Australia will need to take a leadership role" on the climate agreement, Bishop said, according to POLITICO Europe's Zoya Sheftalovich.

PARIS RALLY DRIPS WITH IRONY: About 50 supporters gathered in Lafayette Square (named for the French general who supported the colonies in the American Revolution) for a "Pittsburgh Not Paris" rally to thank Trump for withdrawing from the accord signed in the French capital. As The Pittsburgh Post-Gazette reports, that D.C. rally was dwarfed by one in downtown Steel City that drew 2,000 people in support of the accord after Mayor Bill Peduto announced Friday the city would move toward being powered entirely by clean energy by 2035. Back in D.C., Trump missed his supporters rallying behind his decision as he'd left for his golf course in Virginia before they convened.

HUGE WEEK FOR ENERGY NOMINEES: Lawmakers on the the Senate Energy and Natural Resources committee will vote on the nominations of Neil Chatterjee and Robert Powelson to be FERC commissioners, David Bernhardt to be deputy secretary at Interior, and Dan Brouillette to be No. 2 at DOE Tuesday morning at 9:30 a.m. Ahead of the votes, the nominees released more than 200 pages of responses to questions from senators (available here). Berndardt committed to recuse himself from matters involving former lobbying clients for two years but stopped short of committing to additional transparency measures Democrats requested, Pro's Annie Snider and Esther Whieldon report.

The following day, Environment and Public Works Committee members kick off the process for three Nuclear Regulatory Commission nominees, as well as Susan Bodine's selection to run EPA's enforcement office at 10 a.m.

PERRY AT FUKUSHIMA: Six years after the nuclear emergency, Energy Secretary Rick Perry toured the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power plant in Japan on Sunday. "A truly eye-opening experience," he tweeted with a pic. "The U.S. is committed to our partnership with Japan on this cleanup and our shared vision for a clean environment and brighter future," he added.

WORTH REUPPING: Federal agencies have been instructed by the White House not to cooperate with oversight requests from congressional Democrats, POLITICO's Burgess Everett and Josh Dawsey report. Republicans say the move is designed to stop congressional minorities from getting access to information that might be harmful to the president. "I don't think you'd have the Democrats responding to every minority member request if they were in the same position," one White House official said.

In response, top Senate EPW Democrat Tom Carper said: "This administration believes that it is somehow exempt from the basic requirements of transparency that come with representative government ... I will continue to press for this administration to show their work and report fully and accurately on what actions they are taking on our behalf."

GETTING CHILLY IN HERE: Trump's relationship with corporate America has soured as dozens of executives publicly rebuked the White House over the decision to quit Paris, POLITICO's Ben White and Annie Karni report . They're also dismayed that the administration's big Capitol Hill agenda, which includes passing massive tax cuts, appears stalled and they are terrified by the very public White House fight over how and when to raise the debt limit. The administration brushed off those reports. "We knew there would be blowback from Paris but so far it hasn't been that bad," said one senior official who declined to be identified by name.

SECRETARIES STRESS WILDFIRE COOPERATION: Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke and Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue signed a memorandum Friday in Idaho emphasizing the importance of interagency cooperation ahead of what they said is anticipated to be a "challenging" wildfire season. Zinke also spent time with the smokejumpers, who parachute into remote areas to fight fires, and he participated in meetings on forest management at the state Capitol with Perdue, Gov. Butch Otter and Sen. Jim Risch.

REGS UNDER THE MICROSCOPE: Trump's OMB has dramatically ramped up the number of EPA regulations it is reviewing and has begun taking lots more meetings to gather input from interested parties, Pro's Alex Guillén reports in Energy Regulation Watch. Early proposals now under review include the 2018 Renewable Fuel Standard proposal, as well as a proposed repeal of the Obama-era Waters of the U.S. rule.

Meet your (rule) maker: OMB has meetings scheduled this week the American Chemistry Council, the Environmental Working Group, and the Environmental Defense Fund on EPA's rule

that will detail how the agency prioritizes chemical risk evaluations, part of the revised Toxic Substances Control Act. That follows four meetings Friday on the 2018 RFS rule.

MOVER, SHAKER: John Giordano, who served as deputy general counsel on Donald Trump's transition team as well as on the Energy Department landing team, has joined Archer & Greiner as a partner in the Philadelphia office. He is not planning to register to lobby, according to a spokeswoman for the firm (h/t POLITICO Influence).

CONGRATS: Albert McGartland, director of EPA's National Center for Environmental Economics, is the first-ever federal government economist to be named a fellow of the Association of Environmental and Resource Economists. The honor recognizes contributions to advancing environmental and resource economics.

QUICK HITS

- Energy's Perry having blast running agency he vowed to kill. AP.

- Merkel's Chief of Staff Says EU to Join China, India on Climate. Bloomberg.

- South Korea plans energy U-turn away from coal, nuclear. Reuters.

- Woman seeks release before pipeline protest shooting trial. AP.

- Trouble brews for OPEC as expensive deep-sea oil turns cheap. Bloomberg.

- How G.O.P. Leaders Came to View Climate Change as Fake Science. New York Times.

- Once-secret records reveal pattern of costly mistakes at troubled nuclear project. The State.

THAT'S ALL FOR ME!

To view online:
http://www.politico.com/tipsheets/morning-energy/2017/06/05/pruitt-still-wont-clarify-trumps-climate-views-220656

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To: Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
From: Joe Pompeo - POLITICO Media
Sent: Thur 5/25/2017 9:48:19 AM
Subject: Morning Media, presented by the National Confectioners Association: Greg Gianforte, aka the Montana Slamma — An EIC for Apple News — No Murdoch pressure on Hannity

By Joe Pompeo | 05/25/2017 05:46 AM EDT

With Cristiano Lima and Alex Weprin

THE PRESS FREEDOM INCIDENT TRACKERS MUST REALLY BE WORKING OVERTIME THESE DAYS! We shouldn't even joke, because there's nothing funny about this incident. Via POLITICO's Hadas Gold : "Montana Republican congressional candidate Greg Gianforte allegedly 'body-slammed' a reporter on Wednesday at a campaign event. Ben Jacobs, a reporter for The Guardian tweeted that Gianforte 'body-slammed me and broke my glasses' at a campaign event in Bozeman, Montana. Other reporters on the scene confirmed via Twitter that they witnessed some sort of altercation between the two and that police were called to the scene." Head over to The Guardian for all the gory details, including the jaw-dropping audio.

Eyewitness account, via Fox News: "Gianforte grabbed Jacobs by the neck with both hands and slammed him into the ground behind him. Faith, Keith and I watched in disbelief as Gianforte then began punching the man, as he moved on top the reporter and began yelling something to the effect of 'I'm sick and tired of this!'"

A flack statement to behold: "Tonight, as Greg was giving a separate interview in a private office, The Guardian's Ben Jacobs entered the office without permission, aggressively shoved a recorder in Greg's face, and began asking badgering questions. Jacobs was asked to leave. After asking Jacobs to lower the recorder, Jacobs declined. Greg then attempted to grab the phone that was pushed in his face. Jacobs grabbed Greg's wrist, and spun away from Greg, pushing them both to the ground. It's unfortunate that this aggressive behavior from a liberal journalist created this scene at our campaign volunteer BBQ."

In case it wasn't obvious, no one is buying that. Matt Cooper: "Gianforte should admit he did it. I know @Bencjacobs. The candidate's account is ludicrous plus on audio G doesn't deny it's a 'body slam.'" Sen. Chris Murphy: "Uh...there's an audio tape, Shane. This isn't what happened. Your guy went berserk when asked about the CBO score."

Jacobs spoke with Chris Hayes last night on MSNBC. "It was the strangest moment in my entire life reporting." Video here.

TIPS AND COMMENTS: jpompeo@politico.com / @joepompeo. **Morning Media** is edited by **Alex Weprin** (@alexweprin / aweprin@politico.com) and produced with writing/reporting help from **Cristiano Lima** (clima@politico.com / @ludacristiano). **Archives**. **Subscribe.**

**** A message from the National Confectioners Association - #AlwaysATreat:** Leading global chocolate and candy companies are coming together to provide more information, options, and support as consumers enjoy their favorite treats. It's the first step on our journey to help

people manage their sugar intake and ensure that they feel empowered to make informed choices. Learn more at AlwaysATreat.com. **

REVOLVING DOOR: APPLE NEWS IS GETTING AN EDITOR IN CHIEF - And it's a move that's sure to raise eyebrows not just in Silicon Valley, but in Manhattan media circles as well. Morning Media has learned that Apple has given the job -- a new position at the Cupertino-based company -- to Lauren Kern, one of New York magazine's most high-ranking editors and a former deputy editor at The New York Times Magazine. It's unclear what exactly the role will entail, and Kern declined to comment. But at the very least, it would seem to suggest that Apple has ambitions for its two-year-old aggregation app, which replaced the Apple Newsstand in 2015 but hasn't really gained traction in a big way. We look forward to hearing more about this once the lid's off.

Elsewhere....

-- **Observer Media, the company owned and operated by Jared Kushner since 2006 before he entered the White House with his father-in-law**, said last night that it's on the hunt for a new editor in chief following Ken Kurson's resignation. Kurson, a longtime Kushner friend who was tapped in 2013 to lead the newsroom of The New York Observer newspaper -- which was shuttered in print last year but continues to publish a website called Observer -- announced his departure yesterday afternoon in a staff email first reported by HuffPost's Michael Calderone. CNN's Dylan Byers reports that Kurson is headed for the strategic communications firm Teneo as a senior managing director.

MUST READS:

-- "Aleppo After The Fall" [NYT Magazine]

-- "Trump wasn't always so linguistically challenged. What could explain the change?" [Stat]

-- "The life and death of the Seth Rich conspiracy theory" [WaPo]

-- "Deported To Mexico, US Veterans Are Pressed Into Service By Drug Cartels" [Task & Purpose]

THE MURDOCHS DIDN'T PRESSURE SEAN HANNITY TO BACK OFF THE SETH RICH CONSPIRACY THEORY - That's what the Fox News host told Michael Calderone : "I did it out of my own heart. ... Nobody tells me what to say on my show. They never have and frankly they never will. I'm not that type of person you can say, 'Go on air and say this.' That's been the beauty of Fox News all these years. They leave me alone." On the advertiser pressure Hannity now faces, as with Glenn Beck and Bill O'Reilly before him: "There is an attempt, at this moment in time, to absolutely shut down the Fox News Channel and render it, frankly, a shadow of its former self. .. I'm like the last, sole remaining person there from the old guard." Full interview: " Sean Hannity Sees Liberal Attempt To Drive Him Off The Air"

AN OVERSEAS PRESSER? NAH - via AP : "In his first big tour on the world stage, President

Donald Trump is choosing caution over his usual brand of chaos. ... The president appears likely to go his entire nine-day trip without holding a full news conference, a break from presidential foreign travel precedent. That's allowed him to steer clear of the steady stream of new revelations about his dealings with ousted FBI Director James Comey and the federal investigations into his election campaign's possible ties to Russia. And it's left no real opportunities to push the president beyond his talking points on some of the trip's most complex issues."

WAS ONLY A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE MAGGIE HABERMAN GOT A BIG ELLE PROFILE - It's in the magazine's July issue : "Journalists have become part of the story in the Trump administration, enablers and heroes of a nonstop political and constitutional soap opera, and last year Haberman was the most widely read journalist at the Times, according to its analytics. Many of the juiciest Trump pieces have been broken by her ... While the president and the reporter couldn't seem more different ... the points at which their histories and personalities converge are revealing about both the media and the president himself. Trump wants what she can give him access to -- a kind of status he's always craved in a newspaper ... Haberman, for her part, has become a front-page fixture and a Fourth Estate folk hero. 'This is a symbiotic relationship,' says an administration official. 'Part of the reason' Haberman is so read in the Times 'is because she is writing about Donald Trump.'" More: "Wanna Know What Donald Trump Is Really Thinking? Read Maggie Haberman"

SOUND BITES:

-- "It's hard to view Gianforte's brutality toward a polite journalist as unrelated to Trump's incitement of assaultive hatred toward the media." [Laurence Tribe]

-- "If you consider a phone "shoved" in your face to be sufficient provocation for assault, perhaps you shouldn't be a politician. Or free." [Jamil Smith]

-- "Anyone who's studied how Hitler's SA treated opponents and journalists will find this analogous" [Bill Grueskin]

-- "The @maggienyt cult is now forming chapters in magazines, newspapers, and cities everywhere. Soon to beatified." [Jack Shafer]

-- "Jeff Bezos is f-cking with us all and the future is chain bookstores and big city daily newspapers." [Matt Yglesias]

FIRST IN MORNING MEDIA: BUSINESS INSIDER IS ON THE MOVE - To Lower Manhattan, a real estate refuge to which numerous New York media companies have fled Midtown over the past few years, trading higher rents for the promise of a revitalized hotspot in the area around Wall Street and the World Trade Center. Morning Media has learned that the Henry Blodget-led web publication, which was acquired in 2015 by European media titan Axel Springer, will shack up on two floors of 1 Liberty Plaza come November. The space is nearly twice the size of BI's current Fifth Avenue digs (78,000 square feet versus 42,000), and will feature enhancements like a new video studio and an auditorium to host events and speakers, as well as plenty of space to grow the New York-based staff of 325 and counting. We needn't

remind you that BI began its life 10 years ago with three employees squatting in another startup's loading dock. "We had to squish over every time the Fresh Direct guys arrived," Blodget recalled to Morning Media. "That was fun." Now their neighbors will include fellow Midtown expats like Condé Nast, Time Inc. and the AP. "It's going to be great," said Blodget.

IN OTHER WORKPLACE-RELATED NEWS - The New York Times has a new "Remote Working Policy," which is "designed to provide employees with the flexibility to allow them to be their most productive," according to an internal communication last week from EVP of talent Ellen Shultz. "Under this new policy, employees can apply for manager approval to work remotely. We hope that this approach will help those employees whose circumstances don't always allow them to come into the office to remain productive and engaged. However, it is important to remember that: All remote working agreements are subject to approval by your manager; Some job functions are not suited for remote work; Performance standards must be consistently maintained while working remotely."

SOUNDTRACK: Stevie Nicks, "Beauty and the Beast"

EXTRAS:

-- Fox News is pushing back hard on the Andrea Tantaros lawsuit, dismissing the former host's allegations as an "outright hoax" and "demanding sanctions for Tantaros and her lawyer, Judd Burstein." [The Hollywood Reporter]

-- As MTV, A&E and WGN weather production cuts, one can't help but wonder if "the Golden Age of Television losing its luster." [Bloomberg]

-- Facebook has inked a deal with BuzzFeed, Vox and others for original new video shows. [Reuters]

-- The Manchester Evening News is raising money to support the families of those killed or injured in Monday's terrorist attack. [Press Gazette]

** **A message from the National Confectioners Association - #AlwaysATreat:** We've always created transparent, fun, and great-tasting treats. By 2022, Mars, Wrigley, Nestlé USA, Ferrero, Lindt, Ghirardelli, Russell Stover, and Ferrara Candy Company will work together to make half of their individually wrapped products available in sizes that contain 200 calories or less per pack. And, 90 percent of the best-selling treats made by these companies will have calorie information printed right on the front of the pack. During the same time period, the newly established AlwaysATreat.com will evolve into a digital resource full of easy-to-use information for consumers to better understand the unique role that chocolate and candy can play in a happy, balanced lifestyle. Learn more at AlwaysATreat.com. **

To view online:
http://www.politico.com/media/tipsheets/morning-media/2017/05/25/greg-gianforte-aka-the-montana-slamma-an-eic-for-apple-news-no-murdoch-pressure-on-hannity-001279

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From: Bloomberg BNA
Sent: Fri 5/26/2017 12:31:53 AM
Subject: [SPAM] May 26 -- Daily Environment Report

Daily Environment Report

May 26, 2017 - Number 101

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Leading the News

Water Infrastructure
High Cost of Smart Water Meters Slows Adoption by Utilities
In a world of smart phones, smart cars, and smart appliances, drinking water utilities are striving to keep pace, installing smart meters that send real-time data about usage, leakage, and water quality.

News

Agriculture
Farm Conservation Programs Get Watered Down in Trump Budget
Popular programs to minimize runoff from farms—a leading source of pollution to U.S. waterways—are getting watered down, prompting concern from farm groups and environmental advocates alike.

Agriculture
The Bees Are Back in Town, Sort of
Beekeepers across the country lost one-third of their honeybee colonies over the past year, marking an improvement from a record high four years ago, but still a troubling trend for the sector.

Air Pollution
EPA Opposes Supreme Court Review of Malfunctions Emissions Rule
The EPA's attempt to quash U.S. Supreme Court review on whether industrial facilities must meet federal air pollution standards when equipment malfunctions could be a bid to preserve time and flexibility as the agency looks to give states more leeway to police those incidents.

Budget

Growing Wildfire Costs Prompt Renewed Effort for Funding Change

Rep. Mike Simpson (R-Idaho) will revive an effort to revamp wildfire suppression funding by treating catastrophic fires similarly to hurricanes and other natural disasters, the lawmaker told Bloomberg BNA.

Chemicals

SC Johnson to Expand Skin Allergen Disclosures in Products

A leading U.S. manufacturer of household cleaning products announced it will voluntarily disclose the presence of 368 potential skin allergens in its goods, illustrating an ongoing industry trend.

Climate Change

Group of Exxon Investors to Back Climate Change Plan Board Opposes

Almost 90 Exxon Mobil Corp. investors plan to back a proposal that would pressure the company to bolster its disclosure of climate change risks and opportunities.

Climate Change

Rising Seas May Wipe Out Jersey Towns and Millions in Top-Rated Bonds

Few parts of the U.S. are as exposed to the threats from climate change as Ocean County, New Jersey. It was here in Seaside Heights that Hurricane Sandy flooded an oceanfront amusement park, leaving an inundated roller coaster as an iconic image of rising sea levels. Scientists say more floods and stronger hurricanes are likely as the planet warms.

Energy

Energy Regulator Closer to Quorum as Committee Vote Nears

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's long wait for a quorum is getting closer to an end as a Senate committee prepares for a vote after the Memorial Day recess.

Enforcement

ConocoPhillips to Pay $39M in New Jersey Contamination Case

ConocoPhillips Co. will pay $39 million to settle its part of a long-running lawsuit by New Jersey claiming environmental damages from groundwater contamination by the gasoline additive MTBE, state Attorney General Christopher S. Porrino announced May 25 (New Jersey DEP v. Atlantic Richfield Co., S.D.N.Y., No. 1:08-cv-00312, settlement 5/23/17).

Motor Vehicles

GM Accused in Owner Lawsuit of Using VW-Like Defeat Devices

General Motors Co. was sued for allegedly putting defeat devices in its trucks to beat emissions tests, the sixth carmaker accused of diesel cheating since 2015, when Volkswagen AG admitted to installing software to bypass pollution rules.

Oil & Gas

Canada to Regulate Methane Leaks From Oil and Gas Production

Canada plans to propose regulations to cut methane emissions by the oil and gas industry by 40 percent to 45 percent by 2025.

Oil & Gas

China's Coal-Shrinking Goal Wins Believers as Gas Use Surges

With factories and power plants across China burning half the world's coal, the government's latest targets for using more natural gas to ease the country's worsening air pollution seemed too ambitious.

Oil & Gas

Colorado May Shut Down Wells If Oil, Gas Companies Miss Deadlines

The Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission could order the shutdown of any oil and gas wells if those wells' operators fail to meet upcoming deadlines to check certain pipelines.

Oil & Gas

White House Reviewing Plan to Pause Methane Rule

The White House is reviewing an EPA plan to further pause implementing an Obama administration rule designed to limit methane emissions from oil and gas wells, according to the Office of Management and Budget website.

Oil Spills

Brazil Fines Port Operator for Ship-to-Ship Oil Spill

Acu Petroleo, an oil terminal operator in Rio de Janeiro's industrial port, was fined 275,000 reais ($84,200) after spilling an undisclosed volume of oil May 5.

Pesticides

Maryland Limits Pesticide Use in State-Owned Pollinator Habitats

Three Maryland agencies required to prepare pollinator habitat plans for state lands will be limited in their use of certain pesticides under legislation Gov. Larry Hogan (R) signed May 25.

Renewable Energy

Abu Dhabi's Masdar Starts Trash-Energy Venture in Nearby Sharjah

Abu Dhabi's renewable energy company Masdar formed a joint venture to build a power plant that runs on garbage as the United Arab Emirates seeks to diversify its sources of electricity.

Renewable Energy

Offshore Wind Developers Agree to Maryland Program

Developers of the nation's largest-scale offshore wind farms have agreed to conditions set by Maryland regulators in exchange for billions of dollars in ratepayer-funded subsidies over 20 years.

Stormwater

Construction Stormwater Permit Under Fire Again

An Environmental Protection Agency permit that regulates stormwater runoff at construction sites, which squeaked through a regulatory freeze in February, doesn't do enough to protect the environment, Maryland water quality activists said in a lawsuit.

Sustainability

Green Products to Face Shortfall in Key Ingredients: Report

Companies are scrambling for green alternatives to the chemicals that prevent products from going bad, as consumers shift their tastes to more sustainable goods.

Taxes

State Lawmakers Slow to Debate Carbon Taxes

State carbon tax proposals introduced early in 2017 are moving slowly as legislatures prioritize other issues, particularly their budgets.

Regulatory Agenda

TODAY'S FEDERAL REGISTER

NOTICE. Daily Environment Report's Regulatory Agenda, Comment Deadlines, and Federal Register summaries are now published as part of EHS Federal Regulatory AlertTM http://news.bna.com/frmn/.

TODAY'S STATE REGISTERS

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Daily Environment Report for EPA

To: Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
From: POLITICO Pro Energy
Sent: Thur 5/25/2017 9:43:25 AM
Subject: Morning Energy, presented by POET: DOE, FERC nominees ready for their closeups — Keystone hints in Trump's Paris dilemma — Montana votes on Zinke's seat today

By Anthony Adragna | 05/25/2017 05:41 AM EDT

With help from Esther Whieldon, Eric Wolff, Darius Dixon and Bernie Becker

DOE, FERC NOMS STEP INTO THE SENATE SPOTLIGHT: The Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee is trying to vet the energy appointees as quickly as possible, so today brings a three-fer: Deputy Energy Secretary candidate Dan Brouillette, and FERC picks Neil Chatterjee and Rob Powelson are all getting their time in the sun today. Brouillette is well liked among those who know him from his work on congressional affairs at DOE in the early years of the George W. Bush administration. But most of energy industry's interest is focused on the potential FERC commissioners, and they are hoping there are no hiccups for Chatterjee and Powelson so that they can be sped off to restore the agency's quorum.

Smooth sailing? Chatterjee, an aide to Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, is well-known to just about everyone on the energy committee (ENR Chairwoman Lisa Murkowski deemed Chatterjee the "energy whisperer" as he helped shepherd last year's energy bill through the Senate). Powelson, who has been a member of the Pennsylvania Public Utilities Commission since 2008, including several years as its chairman, has strong ties to his state's congressional delegation. He did an extensive interview with POLITICO last fall, shortly after he became the president of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners, discussing natural gas pipeline infrastructure, the drama unfolding in regional electricity markets and carbon pricing. But Powelson got in hot water in March for saying that people protesting pipeline projects were engaged in a "jihad" against natural gas.

Duty calls: Getting through the hearing is likely to be easier than giant backlog of work that awaits the two nominees at FERC should they be confirmed, as Darius explained earlier this month. Add to that the constant flow of tasks on physical and cybersecurity matters, income tax issues and conflict around PURPA. Both Chatterjee and Powelson have been in government for more than seven years, which makes their financial disclosures and ethics agreements fairly yawn-worthy. For his part, Brouillette is giving up interests he has in four small utilities, if confirmed. But with Memorial Day recess afoot, FERC's quorumless streak will hit the four-month mark before ENR can even vote on them, let alone the full Senate. The hearing starts at 9:45 a.m. in Dirksen 366.

GLIMPSES OF KEYSTONE IN PARIS DEBATE: President Donald Trump's drawn out decision of whether to leave the Paris agreement evokes a political dynamic oddly similar to the one that Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama faced on the Keystone XL pipeline, another largely symbolic decision, Pro's Nick Juliano reports. He faces pressure from Washington elites and foreign allies who want him to stick with the Paris deal — echoing the D.C. establishment and Canadian government pressure for Obama and Clinton to back Keystone.

Trump is hearing arguments that sticking with the nonbinding pact would weaken his domestic energy agenda from attorneys general in energy-producing states like West Virginia and Texas, and conservative groups in Washington like the American Energy Alliance . But his most diehard supporters are hardly taking to the streets over the Paris deal, and even some conservative Republicans don't seem all that invested in his ultimate decision. "You know, I didn't like the way that President Obama got into that, but as I think one of my colleagues has pointed out it doesn't cost us any money, and it doesn't obligate us to do anything," Sen. John Cornyn (R-Texas) said Wednesday. "So it's more an appearances issue."

Trump is said to be leaning against remaining in the deal, which he promised to cancel during the campaign. But he has changed his mind on several other issues so far this year, and a decision has been slow in coming amid the divisions within the administration. Sticking with it would send a begrudging yet powerful signal that the U.S. acknowledges that climate change is a problem worth addressing, even as the administration is already in the process of rolling back Obama's rules that limit greenhouse gas emissions from power plants, automobiles and other major sources, while it hurries to open up vast new tracts of federal land and water to fossil fuel development.

IT'S ANOTHER BUSY DAY IN WASHINGTON! I'm your host Anthony Adragna, and the Renewable Fuels Association's Rachel Gantz was first to pick out Vice Presidents Spiro Agnew and John Calhoun as the only two to resign. For today: During the Civil War, who was Jefferson Davis' vice president? Send your tips, energy gossip and comments to aadragna@politico.com, or follow us on Twitter @AnthonyAdragna, @Morning_Energy, and @POLITICOPro.

PROGRAMMING NOTE — Due to the Memorial Day holiday, Morning Energy will not publish on Monday, May 29. Our next Morning Energy will publish on Tuesday, May 30. Please continue to follow Pro Energy issues here.

ME FIRST — 21 REPUBLICAN SENATORS: BID ADIEU TO PARIS: A group of Republican senators are out with a letter this morning to Trump urging him to leave the Paris agreement, arguing that sticking with it might allow environmentalists to force climate change regulations through litigation. "Leading environmental attorneys have been candid that they intend to use the Paris Agreement and the existing endangerment finding to force EPA to regulate under Section 115 of Clean Air Act," wrote the lawmakers, including Jim Inhofe, John Barrasso and Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell. Interestingly, they argue the U.S. will retain a voice in future discussions through its participation in the UNFCCC, which some conservatives have urged Trump to withdraw from as well.

But Brown thinks Trump will come around: California Gov. Jerry Brown told reporters at a climate change conference hosted by the Netherlands in San Francisco he considers Trump a political "realist" who will likely listen to what Pope Francis, China and other world leaders are saying on the issue, POLITICO California's Carla Marinucci reports.

**** A message from POET - one of the world's largest ethanol producers:** With scientists and engineers, POET operates 30 biofuel facilities & America's first cellulosic biofuel plant. We produce a cleaner fuel for millions of drivers, every day. We're POET and we're driving

innovation, from the ground up. Learn more here. **

MONTANA FILLS ZINKE'S SEAT TODAY: Big Sky voters head to the polls today to fill Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke's congressional seat. Republicans are saying the race between Republican Greg Gianforte and Democrat Rob Quist is "closer than it should be" in the traditionally red state. Polls close at 8 p.m. Montana time so it may be a while before we know how this one turns out. There are late-breaking reports that Gianforte assaulted a reporter Wednesday.

OPEC EXPECTED EXTEND QUOTA CUTS: OPEC and non-member oil producers gather in Vienna today, and an extension of output production of up to year appears to be in the cards, Reuters reports. Recent statements from major oil producing nations indicate the cuts will continue through at least the first quarter of 2018.

NEVER GONNA GIVE YOU UP: Don't look now, but a bipartisan Senate group is coming together to get a group of energy tax credits finally over the hump. The group will be working on what a Democratic leadership aide called a "few small items that are well-vetted and should have already been processed," including clean energy tax credits that supporters say were mistakenly left out of a 2015 budget deal, a nuclear production tax credit that lawmakers from Georgia and South Carolina have been fighting for, and an incentive for carbon capture. Tom Carper (D-Del.), Chris Coons (D-Del.), Lindsey Graham (R-S.C.), Heidi Heitkamp (D-N.D.), Tim Scott (R-S.C.) and Sheldon Whitehouse (D-R.I.) are all expected to join the group — which might see a couple potential legislative vehicles pop up this year, given that lawmakers will have to deal with government funding and the debt ceiling, and are pressing ahead on tax reform. "The nuclear production tax credits just need to be done," Scott said Wednesday, adding he'd work with "any group that's willing to have the conversation about getting that accomplished."

One name not attached to the working group: Sen. Dean Heller (R-Nev.), a backer of renewable energy tax credits who also happens to be an endangered GOP incumbent next year. But the Democratic aide denied Heller was excluded for political reasons, instead saying he didn't take part in efforts to get the tax incentives extended in the most recent budget deal.

PRUITT MEETS PUBLIC HEALTH GROUP: EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt met Wednesday with representatives of the American Academy of Pediatrics to discuss "how we can continue to improve children's environmental health." The group tweeted, "whenever there is an opportunity to advocate for children to those in power, AAP leaders are there."

E15 WAIVER HEARING STILL COMING: It's not scheduled yet, but Senate EPW Chairman John Barrasso told reporters Wednesday that legislation allow year-round sale of gasoline blends with 15 percent ethanol would still get an EPW markup. "We haven't sent a date yet, but we'll do it," he said. ME readers likely remember the promise of a committee vote got a bloc of corn-state Republicans to back an (ultimately unsuccessful) effort to overturn an Obama-era methane regulation.

'First step' on RFS reform: The House Energy and Commerce Committee took its first official step in revamping the Renewable Fuel Standard with a roundtable discussion Wednesday.

"We're looking forward to continuing our thorough review in order to better understand what's working, what's not, and whether the goals of the program are being achieved," a committee aide told ME.

MURKOWSKI REMAINS COOL TO SPR SELLOFF: Don't expect Murkowski, chairman of the energy panel and senior appropriator, to get behind the Trump administration's desire to sell off half the nation's emergency oil stockpile. "I think the direction that the administration is taking or as I'm reading the lines there is 'we don't necessarily need as robust a Strategic Petroleum Reserve because what we're going to do is enhance energy production,'" she said. "I like that, but does that really happen? ... There are some things that need to be reviewed and considered." She promised to ask Brouillette about the matter during his confirmation hearing today.

MAIL CALL! SAVE THE WETLANDS FUNDING: 175 House members and 45 senators sent letters to top appropriators asking for robust fiscal 2018 funding for the North American Wetlands Conservation Act program. "NAWCa represents a reasonable, cost-effective approach to wildlife conservation," they wrote. "While we understand the fiscal constraints this year, we would like to point to this program's demonstrated success at developing non-federal sources and diverse partnerships for the conservation of wildlife habitat." Both letters received significant bipartisan support.

LAWMAKERS TO GAO: TAKE A LOOK AT HANFORD: An eclectic group of House and Senate lawmakers — Senate ENR ranking member Maria Cantwell, House Energy and Commerce Chairman Greg Walden, Sen. Patty Murray, House Energy and Commerce ranking member Frank Pallone, Sen. Ron Wyden, Rep. Dan Newhouse and House Republican Conference Chair Cathy McMorris Rodgers — asked GAO in a letter to look at ongoing cleanup efforts at the Hanford Nuclear Reservation in Washington and examine what remediation still needs to be completed. "We were alarmed by the recent tunnel collapse at the Hanford site, and are concerned that future events could put the safety of workers, the public and environment at risk," they wrote.

DELAWARE TRADES WANT EPA TO CHANGE RFS OBLIGATION: The Delware AFL-CIO and Delware Building Trades are asking EPA's Pruitt to change which companies bear the obligation of complying with the Renewable Fuel Standard. In a letter sent yesterday, the union argues that the current system, which requires refiners to purchase credits to prove compliance, "puts merchant refiners like the [PBF Energy's] Delaware City at risk." The union joins the United Steelworkers in asking for the change.

REPORT: SIGNIFICANT PHISHING ATTACK AT INTERIOR: A major cybersecurity attack in January 2016 that likely originated outside the U.S. resulted in 1,500 Interior employees receiving phishing emails and approximately 100 compromised email accounts, according to a report released Wednesday by the agency's inspector general. In response, official accelerated the deployment of a two-step authentication process for email access and stopped the attack within 11 days of it beginning.

REPORT: ANTIQUITIES ACT FUELS LOCAL ECONOMIES: The Mountain Pact, a

collection of Colorado towns, released a white paper today analyzing the importance of the Antiquities Act for sustaining local economies in the West. "Investment in, protection and expansion of public lands is a vital part of ensuring that mountain communities can continue to sustain and grow their outdoor economies," it states.

PESTICIDES BILL CLEARS HOUSE AGAIN: Lawmakers voted 256-165 Wednesday in favor of the Reducing Regulatory Burdens Act, which would exempt pesticide applicators from Clean Water Act permitting requirements, Pro's Annie Snider reports. Similar measures have cleared the House multiple times since a 2009 court ruling that mandated the Clean Water Act permits, but the Senate has never taken them up.

SENATE DEMOCRATS CRY FOUL OVER OVERSIGHT OBSTRUCTION: Sixteen senior Senate Democrats, led by Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, sent a letter to Trump demanding answers on whether the White House had instructed federal agencies not to respond to the oversight requests of Democrats. "While some agencies have responded to limited number of these requests, most have gone unanswered," they wrote. "If at the instruction of the White House information is being intentionally withheld on a partisan basis, such actions would be simply unacceptable." Tom Carper, top EPW Democrat, has raised serious concerns about the lack of responsive information coming from EPA to his oversight letter requests.

LIKE A GOOD NEIGHBOR, PERRY'S THERE: Energy Secretary Rick Perry will receive the U.S.-Mexico Chamber of Commerce's Good Neighbor Award tonight at 9 p.m. in celebration of "his leadership in fostering collaboration between the U. S. and Mexico during his tenure as Governor of the State of Texas."

UTAH TOURISM OFFICE PROMOTING NATIONAL MONUMENTS IN CROSS HAIRS: The Utah Office of Tourism is promoting the Bears Ears National Monument even as the state's governor and congressional delegation is pushing Trump to rescind the monument. Gov. Gary Herbert signed a resolution in February urging the administration to remove the designation. But the tourism office within the governor's office has a page on its website dedicated to the monument. "This 1.35-million-acre national monument covers a broad expanse of red rock, juniper forests, high plateau, cultural, historic and prehistoric legacy that includes an abundance of early human and Native American historical artifacts," the website says. "Just as important to the Bears Ears designation are the modern-day connections that the Navajo Nation, Ute Mountain Ute Tribe, Hopi Nation and other tribes have to this land."

MOVER, SHAKER: Tom Starrs, vice president of market strategy and policy for SunPower Corp., has been named chairman of the Solar Energy Industries Association board; Michael Maulick, president of SunLink Corp., will be vice chairman.

QUICK HITS

— China Shuts Only Undersea Coal Mine Amid Production Rebound. AP.

— 9.8 million people employed by renewable energy, according to new report. CNBC.

— U.S. should act against proposed Russian gas pipeline, Democratic senator says. MarketWatch.

— Presidents can't undo national monuments, new study says. Salt Lake Tribune.

— France's Macron to try to convince Trump to back Paris accords: diplomats. Reuters.

HAPPENING TODAY

8:15 a.m. — Environmental and Energy Study Institute event on transmission infrastructure, Reserve Officers Association, 5th Floor, One Constitution Ave NE

9:30 a.m. — House Appropriations Committee hearing on the U.S. Forest Service, 2007 Rayburn

9:45 a.m. — "Nomination Hearing to Consider DOE, FERC Nominees," Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, 366 Dirksen

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To view online:
https://www.politicopro.com/tipsheets/morning-energy/2017/05/doe-ferc-nominees-ready-for-their-closeups-023001

Stories from POLITICO Pro

POLITICO Pro Q&A: NARUC President Robert Powelson Back

By Darius Dixon | 12/28/2016 06:15 AM EDT

Robert Powelson, a Republican and Pennsylvania state regulator, was elevated in November to the presidency of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners, which represents state regulators across the country.

Powelson's been a member of the state's PUC since 2008, including five years as its chairman, where he dealt with disasters like Hurricane Sandy in 2012.

Powelson's one-year NARUC presidency begins amid the transition at the White House and across the executive branch, and his group plans to hammer on its issues like energy infrastructure, nuclear waste and pipeline safety. He's also frustrated with grid operators who he

feels are "putting their heads down in the sand" when it comes to state initiatives aimed at rescuing nuclear plants and the need for PHMSA to have a leader that isn't "stuck inside the Beltway."

This interview has been edited for length and clarity.

NARUC presidents tend to have a particular issue of focus for their leadership. What are NARUC's priorities for 2017?

This is one of those rarified opportunities when you're elected to be president of NARUC and you're on a parallel path with a presidential transition. In Pennsylvania, we have great leaders in [GOP] Reps. Bill Shuster and Lou Barletta and what I've tried to stress is that we're all about infrastructure — roads, bridges, airports, mass transit, all that — but let's not forget what we do as public utility regulators with energy infrastructure.

It's the pipeline replacement and siting, transmission buildout, water infrastructure in a post-Flint, Mich., world where we're having a national discussion about lead contaminants. We're going to be stressing our points around the need to invest in energy infrastructure. We recognize the ports and the airports and the mass transit and intermodal transportation needs and infrastructure, but NARUC's going to be sitting there articulating a message around energy infrastructure as well.

How high a priority is nuclear waste and potentially moving forward with the Yucca Mountain repository?

From a NARUC perspective, we're becoming a little impatient with how these markers on Yucca keep getting moved. ... I've been to Yucca Mountain. I've been inside the mountain. I know it's there. I know it's been paid for.

In the past, NARUC approved a resolution saying the nuclear waste fee imposed on utilities shouldn't be restarted until the Energy Department moves ahead with Yucca or some other program authorized by Congress. If Yucca is back on the table, where is NARUC on the fee?

As the spent fuel stays onsite, I think policymakers in states like Pennsylvania and Illinois — [leading] nuclear production states, at the state legislature level and state homeland security level — there's a little bit of heartburn in terms when we're going to have this national solution.

Honestly, we have not had that kind of discussion recently at NARUC. I think a lot of people think about it at the macro level. State PUC commissioners believe it's been paid for and we're being asked to do it again.

New York approved a clean energy standard that includes subsidies for nuclear plants, and Illinois recently did the same. Do you see other states embracing that?

The Pennsylvania market — a net exporter of power, 46,000-plus megawatts, No. 2 natural gas

production in the country next to Texas — we've seen close to a 56 percent drop in wholesale power prices since 2008, we've seen a market-based decarbonization since 2008.

Today, because of the benefits of the Marcelleus here in the Northeast, we're bringing gas out of the wellhead at a $1.96 MMBtu. In fact, Pennsylvania gas is almost a dollar cheaper than Henry Hub quoted gas. These are all the real-time, 'what's going on in the marketplace' [elements]. And then we have, at the federal level, a discussion about the Clean Power Plan and a meeting that took place on Capitol Hill about three months ago with DOE officials, representatives from the Nuclear Energy Institute, the Edison Electric Institute, and now all of a sudden everybody's like, "Oh my God. We've missed the mark on nuclear price formation issues."

Pennsylvania has a renewable portfolio standard. That RPS does not recognize the value of nuclear. It does not recognize the potential investment that a nuclear operator can make with a steam generator retrofit. And Pennsylvania is a devout supporter of competitive markets. [There are the] issues of Diablo Canyon in California and the issue of price distortion because of wind and the federal production tax credit, and the New York example of saving western nuclear units, jobs. Pennsylvania is a very different market than Illinois, New York and California.

We're following it in other states, but the construct would have to be looked at in the policy lens of the renewable portfolio standard in Pennsylvania being amended to recognize the value of nuclear. Granted, we don't regulate generation in Pennsylvania, but we recognize that value when we had the polar vortex in 2013 when we had a 24 percent forced-outage rate across PJM. The darling child that kept the lights on at 5 o'clock at night as people were coming home from work was nuclear power.

This issue needs to be looked at by PJM — the issue of nuclear price formation. The RTOs need to deal with the issue. Pushing it back to state regulators by these one-off mechanisms — if you're in a restructured market — basically puts us back in the business of doing integrated resource planning.

So, you're hoping for market-wide approaches?

Yeah, that, or if Congress wants to solve the problem, then put a value on carbon. But that's not gonna happen either.

I was in the room when [Sen.] Lamar Alexander in 2008 articulated a vision of a nuclear renaissance. Well, we haven't seen a nuclear renaissance. It's Watts Bar, Vogtle and SCANA and that's it. ... I'd love a nuclear renaissance. The problem is we've also got the gas renaissance taking place.

What are the central problems you have with the state-by-state approach to rescuing power plants?

It creates too many, what I call, energy policy moral hazards, and you're [looking to] state regulators that are not in the business of doing integrated resource planning, and you're asking us to do that. I think it creates a bastardized market construct and at the end of the day, this issue is

best resolved with the RTO — in our case PJM — putting that value on carbon and dealing with it. Sheepishly, RTOs are putting their heads down in the sand and not saying a word.

Do you think they're expecting FERC to deal with this?

I think what they're looking to do is, as these things germinate in states, the RTO is now put in the very awkward position of how does this work in the capacity auction construct, and how does it pass the screen test at the FERC level of not bastardizing the Federal Power Act.

Do you get the sense that RTOs are waiting for the courts and FERC to address the New York clean energy standard before they take their next step?

That's seems to be the posture that we're seeing in PJM because if you take the Illinois example and assuming there's a discussion in New Jersey, and a discussion here [in Pennsylvania], the RTO is best equipped to addressed that. If there's going to be a value in the wholesale power market construct in our organized market, the grid operator needs to determine that, not the state regulator.

What other big issues are on NARUC's priorities?

Obviously, the Clean Power Plan is something the new administration will seek our input on. Then there are issues around net-neutrality and some FCC decisions and then you come back to energy. One of the big things after the passage of the SAFE PIPES Act this year, is that there is a disconnect between the states and PHMSA. One of our priorities with the new administration will be how critically important it is to identify a PHMSA administrator that understands the plight of gas safety operations back in the states.

These are largely domiciled in the state public utility commissions, but let's use my state as an example. We've got a lot more responsibility in the last five years. There was a state statute signed into law giving us new jurisdictional oversight. That comes with hiring new personnel, new engineers. Well, guess what — there's one training location in the U.S.

This has become a common-thread issue, brought up in a resolution that passed that expressed a concern that [PHMSA] can't expect states to ramp up their safety operations when there's only one training location in the country. When I was on the hill, and I talk to people like [Reps.] Lou Barletta and Bill Shuster and Sens. Bob Casey and Pat Toomey, they were alarmed to hear that.

Help us solve it. If you don't want to do brick-and-mortar training facilities, that's fine. But let's come up with a reasonable approach. It could be at a community college, it could be a university setting, whatever. But we gotta get beyond this backlog in training because it's really gonna come back and bite us.

PHMSA, at the administrative level, needs an individual in there that understands how state-based gas safety operations work — know the modus operandi. They can't be stuck inside the Beltway. You need someone who understands those state issues. It's been a very combative relationship. In fact, with PHMSA directors from [Cynthia] Quarterman to [Marie] Dominguez,

we've pulled our hair out trying to get them as speakers. The joke at NARUC is that we know we've hit a homerun when the PHMSA administrator accepts an invitation to speak.

We're equal access. We want to have high-level, key administration folk come through. I give [EPA Administrator] Gina McCarthy a lot of credit. She worked NARUC and met with people who were diametrically opposed to the Clean Power Plan but she took the time to at least talk to us.

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New FERC picks face a mountain of difficult business Back

By Darius Dixon | 05/09/2017 07:09 PM EDT

President Donald Trump's new picks for FERC should have little trouble winning Senate confirmation, and once they do they will face a mountain of decisions about the future of power markets, the agency's relationship with the states, and its approach to enforcement.

Trump's long-awaited announcement that he would fill two vacancies on the five-seat commission couldn't have come soon enough for Sen. Lisa Murkowski, who is angling for quick confirmation hearings before her Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee.

"The FERC has been without a quorum since early February and they need the ability to get to work," Murkowski told reporters Tuesday.

Trump nominated Neil Chatterjee, a senior energy adviser to Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell , and Robert Powelson, a Pennsylvania regulator with strong relationships in Congress, to the commission, but he has yet to tap a permanent FERC chairman. That position has been expected to go to Kevin McIntyre, a Jones Day lawyer who also is an expert in the Federal Power Act, FERC's core statute. In more than two decades with Jones Day, McIntyre has had a slew of energy industry clients, including South Carolina Electric & Gas Co. and SCANA Corp., making his financial disclosures and ethics paperwork more complicated than those who have been in government for several years.

The agency has been experiencing a traffic jam of energy infrastructure projects needing the leadership's blessing.

"We are already building up quite a backlog," acting FERC Chairwoman Cheryl LaFleur said recently, noting that there'd been a steep drop-off in the number of orders issued since former Chairman Norman Bay's resignation in February dropped it to two members, preventing a quorum needed to conduct a lot of its most critical business.

Many of those orders, dealing with issues such as interstate natural gas pipeline projects and

contested electricity rate plans, still require followup decisions to be made when more leaders are brought on. To help ease the agency's pileup, staff have been lining up draft orders for new commissioners to review as soon as they're sworn in.

Perhaps the biggest issue looming over the agency is how it plans to address a growing number of state-level policies tailored to specific energy sources — such as nuclear incentive programs recently approved in New York and Illinois — that are complicating the markets under FERC's jurisdiction.

The Electric Power Supply Association, which represents independent generators, filed complaints in January calling on FERC to ensure electricity prices in upcoming spring auctions in the New York and the mid-Atlantic area PJM Interconnection markets were not artificially lowered by state programs that subsidize struggling nuclear plants. But until at least one new member is confirmed, FERC's hands are tied.

Meanwhile, Ohio, Connecticut, New Jersey and Pennsylvania have all started to mull their options for helping power plants in their states just as state regulators and a broad swath of the energy industry has increasingly looked to FERC for policy guidance.

Presidents and Congress typically aim to achieve geographic balance at FERC, and Powelson would be the only representative of a PJM state if he is confirmed.

In addition to being the largest power market overseen by FERC, PJM may test how the agency irons out differences — or butts head with —with states crafting lifelines for power plants. And Powelson has called for market operators to take a more forceful role in addressing issues such as aiding nuclear power through carbon pricing rather than leaving states to take bites out of the markets.

"I think it creates a bastardized market construct and at the end of the day, this issue is best resolved with the RTO — in our case PJM — putting that value on carbon and dealing with it," Powelson said in an interview with POLITICO last fall. "Sheepishly, RTOs are putting their heads down in the sand and not saying a word."

Carbon pricing got a lot of airtime at FERC's recent technical conference as perhaps the most market-friendly way to support nuclear power. Still, it was also clear that states within the same electricity market, like New England, couldn't agree on moving ahead with carbon pricing.

Another part of the policy deluge the new commissioners will feel pressure to act on is the agency's closely watched price formation initiative, which focuses on developing new market rules that boost how power plants are paid in an increasingly complex grid. That initiative, which was launched following the 2013-14 polar vortex that caused electricity prices in the Northeast to skyrocket, has been eyed particularly by companies with around-the-clock baseload power plants, like the nuclear industry.

The FERC vacancies also exacerbated uncertainty surrounding the commission's work to protect energy markets against alleged manipulation. Once a new commissioner is confirmed — and a

permanent chairman in place — leaders will have to decide how to respond to recent court losses over how they run enforcement cases. While FERC lawyers handle the particulars of each case, the commission leadership will have to debate any overarching change to its enforcement strategy, particularly if judges are going to force them to practically build the cases from scratch again.

FERC Commissioner Colette Honorable also recently announced that she will leave the agency later this year. Her departure provides another opening for Trump to fill but because FERC's board can't have more than three members of the same political party, tradition indicates that Democrats will pick who fills the seat.

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Trump's Keystone-style conundrum on the Paris climate deal Back

By Nick Juliano | 05/25/2017 05:03 AM EDT

President Donald Trump is dragging out a decision on the Paris climate change pact, creating a political dynamic strangely similar to the one that Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama faced on the Keystone XL pipeline, another policy call that was mostly symbolic.

Whether Trump exits or remains in the international climate pact will have little impact on U.S. greenhouse gas emissions, much like how Obama's decision to block Keystone did not reduce U.S. oil consumption.

The 2015 Paris deal itself was hailed as the major breakthrough in global cooperation to fight climate climate change, but the pact itself carries little weight, since it's built on individual nations' domestic actions and doesn't include penalties for failing to act. Trump's advisers have split over whether to exit the deal, an approach preferred by conservatives like chief strategist Steve Bannon and EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt, or to stay in and attempt to weaken the U.S. commitment, the preferred approach of Secretary of State Rex Tillerson and Ivanka Trump, among others.

Trump has already begun systematically eliminating the Obama policies that were built into Washington's commitments under the deal — and he can continue to do so even if he stops short of withdrawing. Similarly, even if Obama had approved Keystone, that single project would not be enough to counteract the emissions reductions promised by the rest of his climate policies.

Another Keystone parallel: Trump is essentially being asked to side with either the Washington elites and foreign allies who want him to stick with the Paris deal, or the voters who elected him, most of whom doubt the scientific consensus that humanity is responsible for climate change.

"It's the deplorables versus the swamp, the elites versus the deplorables," said Myron Ebell, the

director of the conservative Competitive Enterprise Institute's Center for Energy and Environment who initially headed Trump's EPA transition operation.

On his first foreign trip this week, Trump is getting foreign pressure — from the Vatican and European leaders — to not abandon the climate deal, just as Obama and Clinton were lobbied by the Canadian government to approve the Keystone pipeline.

Many of the same Keystone-inspired activists who chained themselves to the White House fence during the Obama administration have marched by the hundreds of thousands against Trump's environmental policies. And although Trump's white working class base has been mostly silent on Paris deal, several state attorneys general and conservative groups like the American Energy Alliance have urged the White House to leave the pact.

CEI ran TV ads ahead of the president's foreign trip urging him to pull out of the deal, and dozens of mostly Washington-based conservative groups have written letters arguing against Paris. Ebell said more groups were expected to sign onto future letters, and Republican members of Congress likely would weigh in next week as well.

But there appears to be little evidence that Trump's genuine grassroots supporters are motivated by the Paris agreement itself, even as they cheer the president's regulatory moves to end what he calls Obama's "war on coal." Meanwhile, hundreds of thousands of liberal activists marched in Washington and around the world last month to protest Trump's policies.

Like the apathy that settled in around Keystone over time, some conservative Republicans are saying it's not a big deal if Trump decides to stay in.

"You know, I didn't like the way that President Obama got into that, but as I think one of my colleagues has pointed out it doesn't cost us any money, and it doesn't obligate us to do anything," Sen. John Cornyn (R-Texas) said Wednesday. "So it's more an appearances issue."

The Trump administration is in the process of rolling back Obama's rules that limit greenhouse gas emissions from power plants, automobiles and other major sources, while it hurries to open up vast new tracts of federal land and water to fossil fuel development.

Those moves have been cheered in the rural, energy-producing states that helped deliver Trump the presidency — and they will have a profoundly greater effect on whether the planet can avoid potentially catastrophic global warming by the end of the century than whether Trump crosses out Obama's signature on the Paris pact documents filed away at U.N. headquarters.

If Trump decides to keep his pen in his pocket, it would send a begrudging yet powerful signal that the United States acknowledges that climate change is a problem worth addressing. That signal to the markets, combined with ambitious actions underway in Europe and China as well as states like California, would support the ongoing shift toward renewable fuels and natural gas — hindering the coal industry revival Trump so often promised on the campaign trail.

As a result, the future of the Paris deal has taken on outsized importance in the debates over the

president's domestic and foreign policy goals.

"I think the people who look more than a few months ahead in the administration and in the conservative movement, and I'd also say in Congress, understand that Paris threatens that whole agenda," Ebell said, predicting Trump would ultimately exit the deal.

"It will be used in litigation by environmental pressure groups to try to stop major pieces of that agenda" because the voluntary pledge Obama submitted specified that policies like the Clean Power Plan and strict vehicle emissions rules were necessary to meet the U.S. emissions reduction target, he added.

When Trump visited the Vatican Wednesday, Pope Francis presented the president with several books, including a copy of Laudato Si, his encyclical demanding a response to the climate crisis. "Well I'll be reading them," Trump said of the books, according to a pool report.

And Vatican Secretary of State Pietro Parolin pressed Trump to stay in the Paris deal when they met, Tillerson said, and the president has not yet made up my mind.

The meeting included "a good exchange the difficulty of balancing addressing climate change, responses to climate change, and ensuring that you still have a thriving economy and you can still offer people jobs so they can feed their families and have a prosperous economy," Tillerson said. He added: "It's an opportunity to hear from people. We're developing our own recommendation on that."

Trump is said to be leaning against remaining in the deal, which he promised to cancel during the campaign. But he has changed his mind on several other issues so far this year, and a decision has been slow in coming amid the divisions within the administration.

"It was pretty clear we were winning" when word began circulating a few weeks ago that Trump would decide on Paris before leaving for his foreign trip, Ebell said. But now, "I think this is a period of great danger."

Anti-Keystone activists also used time to their advantage, and they managed to stretch out the saga for five years after then-Secretary of State Clinton said the administration was "inclined" to support the project in 2010. As a presidential candidate, Clinton was dogged by environmentalists over her refusal to take a stand on the project until she finally came out against it in September 2015. Obama formally rejected Keystone two months later — citing the U.S. efforts to build support for the Paris agreement among his reasons for turning it down.

Ebell said he is not worried about the lack of anti-Paris protesters in the streets because Trump knows "who elected him and why" and understands that Paris will affect the rest of his agenda.

"We're not trying to replicate the methods of the other side," he said. "We're trying to replicate the intensity, but intensity can be demonstrated in a lot of different ways."

Still, Paris supporters are optimistic that the president does not plan to make up his mind until

after he returns from the G-7 summit at the end of this week.

"Every day that goes by that they haven't withdrawn is a good day," Sen. Brian Schatz (D-Hawaii) told POLITICO. "He is now in the process of getting an earful wherever he goes. And that's good."

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Brown: Trump will come around on climate change Back

By Carla Marinucci | 05/24/2017 06:08 PM EDT

SAN FRANCISCO — California Gov. Jerry Brown, one of the Democratic Party's most outspoken critics of Republican climate change policy, said Wednesday he now believes that President Donald Trump is a political "realist" who will likely listen to what Pope Francis, China and other world leaders are saying on the key issue - and that progress under his administration may be "not as disastrous as we thought a few months ago."

Brown cited Trump's meeting with Pope Francis on Wednesday - and the delivery of a papal encyclical on climate change - as one reason for optimism. Other positive signs: China's growing efforts to contain pollution and the effects of global warming, and the Trump administration's approval this week of $657 million for the electrified Caltrain project in the San Francisco Bay Area.

"President Trump is a realist - and there's nothing more real than the atmosphere and the chemistry that determines our weather and our long-term climate," Brown told reporters at a climate change conference hosted by the Netherlands in San Francisco on Wednesday. "I don't know that he's going to come aboard immediately - but I do know that with our efforts in California, joining with other states and other provinces in the world, that we will be successful in pushing this agenda.

"There will be some bumps in the road," Brown said. "There's a great deal of denial - I see that in some of the people [Trump has] appointed. But I'd say the trend is toward dealing with climate change - and I don't think President Trump will stand in the way of that, ultimately."

The California governor - who has in the past lambasted Republicans as "luddites" on the climate change issue and Trump as a climate change denier - said he took it as a good sign that the president met with Pope Francis and that the two discussed the issue.

"Don't underestimate the power of the Holy Father," Brown said. "The pope is talking about climate change, he's handing him an encyclical ... and there are many conservative leaders in the world who support" efforts to reduce climate change.

The papal encyclical calls for drastic cuts in fossil fuel emissions, and the gift has been viewed as pressure on Trump to not withdraw from the Paris climate accord.

Trump has recently played up his admiration and positive relationship with Chinese President Xi Jinping, and Brown noted that the fact that "China is asserting such a world leadership role" in the matter is key. Brown will head to China next month to meet with Chinese leaders "and further that effort ... and I don't think President Trump will want to stand aside as this climate story unfolds."

Brown also cited the federal funding for Caltrain - the electrification of a commuter rail project that serves tens of thousands of workers daily in Silicon Valley - as a sign of progress, because it comes in spite of objections from GOP Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy and the Republican House delegation.

"Obviously, President Trump had a very different view than Mr. McCarthy," Brown said. While it appeared initially that the project was in danger from the Republican opposition, "that's the wonderful thing about politics - no matter what someone says today doesn't mean they won't change their minds tomorrow."

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Republicans: Montana special election 'closer than it should be' Back

By Elena Schneider and Gabriel Debenedetti | 05/24/2017 05:17 AM EDT

GREAT FALLS, Mont. — Republican Greg Gianforte's closing motivational speech to voters ahead of Thursday's special House election in Montana is the same thing GOP strategists are whispering in private: "This race is closer than it should be."

It's a recurring nightmare of a pattern for Republicans around the country, as traditional GOP strongholds prove more difficult and expensive for the party to hold than it ever anticipated when President Donald Trump plucked House members like Ryan Zinke, the former Montana Republican now running the Interior Department, for his Cabinet. Gianforte is still favored to keep the seat red, but a state Trump carried by 20 percentage points last year became a battleground in the past few months.

Democrat Rob Quist, a folk singer and first-time candidate, has raised more than $6 million for his campaign, including $1 million in the past week alone as energized Democratic donors pour online cash into political causes this year. Quist hopes that enthusiasm also contributes to an outsize turnout — as it did in special elections in Kansas and Georgia earlier this year — for the oddly scheduled Thursday election, happening just before a holiday weekend.

"I remember talking to people when it first started who said this was a slam dunk, Gianforte's it.

And it's not there anymore," said Jim Larson, the Montana Democratic Party chairman. "It is a lot closer than people ever thought it would be."

Gianforte, a technology executive, has led consistently in polls for the special election, but Quist has narrowed that lead to single digits in recent weeks, according to private surveys. "Gianforte has an edge, but it's not going to be a slam dunk," said one national GOP strategist.

Republicans have called on Vice President Mike Pence and Donald Trump Jr. to calm their nerves about turnout and prevent Democrats from having the only energized voting bloc in the special election. Both have rallied voters with Gianforte, and Pence recorded a get-out-the-vote robocall. Gianforte, who said little about Donald Trump when Gianforte ran for governor and lost in 2016, has cast himself as a willing and eager partner of the president this time around.

On Tuesday, surrounded by Trump stickers — and some Trump hat-wearing supporters — Gianforte said he was eager "to work with Donald Trump to drain the swamp and make America great again," invoking two of the president's campaign slogans. Pence's robocall may give another boost to Republican turnout efforts.

But the environment has changed since Trump's presidential win last fall. One senior Republican strategist warned that, based on the party's performance in special elections so far, if Republicans "cannot come up with better candidates and better campaigns, this cycle is going to be even worse than anybody ever thought it could be."

"The fact that we're talking about Montana — a super red seat — is amazing," said John Lapp, who led the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee during the 2006 cycle. "It's also amazing how much money Republicans have to pour into these seats to defend them. It's still a steep climb in Montana, but we know that the reaction there means that there's a tremendous amount of Democratic energy across the country, a tremendous amount of fundraising that will then feed into races that are much fairer fights."

Democrats hope the passage of House Republicans' health care bill just three weeks before the election will put the wind at Quist's back. It has been the subject of Quist's closing TV ads, and he has called the plan "devastating" to Montana.

GOP outside groups have ensured that Republicans have a spending advantage, though, airing more than $7 million worth of TV ads, versus about $3 million from Democrats. House Majority PAC, Democrats' main House outside group, on Tuesday added a last-minute $125,000 TV ad buy to the race, on top of $25,000 announced last week.

But those ads may have reached a point of diminishing returns in a state that prefers retail politics, said Matt Rosendale, the Republican state auditor.

"The airwaves are saturated, and when people see political commercials come on, they completely block it out. I think there's a lot of money wasted on it," Rosendale said. "It's a necessity in Montana to meet people. You have to be able to go out and meet with them, look them in the eye and answer difficult questions face-to-face."

Operatives in both parties privately grumble about the quality of their candidates, with each arguing their paths to victory might be clearer with a standard-bearer carrying a little less baggage.

Republicans acknowledge that Gianforte has flaws Democrats exploited mercilessly in last year's gubernatorial race, likely cementing negative feelings about him from some voters. Gianforte is dogged by reports that he sued Montana to block access to a stream in front of his ranch, kicking up a public lands dispute that hits home with Montana voters and has "probably followed him into this House race," said Jeff Essman, the state's GOP party chairman.

Democrats, too, acknowledge that Quist isn't without his problems. Republican TV ads repeatedly attack Quist's various personal financial problems, including "a defaulted loan, tax liens, collections, foreclosure notices." Republican groups dug into Quist's medical records and questioned his musical performance at a nudist colony.

"I haven't seen this kind of opposition research on both sides on a House race in a long time," said one Democratic strategist who's worked in the state. "This is what you get when candidates are chosen in a nominating process and there's no vetting. Some people would say Quist is authentic, an outsider, a la Donald Trump, but Quist has a problematic record because he hasn't spent his career in politics being careful."

Quist called in his own big-name reinforcements to activate the Democratic base and cater to the populist streak in the state, as Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders headlined a handful of rallies alongside Quist last weekend.

It's a gamble, Sen. Steve Daines (R-Mont.) said, that could alienate some in the state, where Trump remains popular.

"Rob Quist is too liberal for Montana — he is very liberal. Democrats who have won statewide in Montana tend to be moderate, and Quist is no moderate," said Daines, who campaigned alongside Gianforte in the final stretch of the race. "Who did he parade across Montana this weekend? Bernie Sanders."

To view online click here.

Back

Montana House GOP candidate cited after reporter says he 'body-slammed me' Back

By Hadas Gold and Gabriel Debenedetti | 05/24/2017 08:36 PM EDT

HELENA, Mont. — Montana Republican congressional candidate Greg Gianforte was issued a citation late Wednesday after he allegedly "body-slammed" a reporter at a campaign event on the eve of a hotly contested special election.

Ben Jacobs, a reporter for The Guardian tweeted that Gianforte "body-slammed me and broke my glasses" at a campaign event in Bozeman, Montana — minutes before what was to be the last campaign rally of the campaign. Jacobs said he had asked Gianforte about a new budget analysis of House Republicans' effort to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act.

Late Wednesday, Gallatin County Sheriff Brian Gootkin issued a statement saying the Republican congressional candidate had been cited for "misdemeanor assault" and that Gianforte would have to appear in court by June 7 to resolve the matter. "The nature of the injuries did not meet the statutory elements of felony assault," the sheriff said in his statement.

The incident rocked a closely watched contest, just hours before voters cast their ballots in Thursday's special House election in Montana to replace Ryan Zinke, who is now the Trump administration's secretary of the interior. Gianforte, a technology executive, is running against Democrat Rob Quist, a folk singer and first-time candidate. The race in the traditional Republican stronghold is turning out to be closer than many thought it would be.

The encounter on election eve immediately captured statewide and even national attention. At least one local station interrupted prime-time programming for a breaking news report and reports bannered all of Montana's biggest newspapers.

The Billings Gazette subsequently rescinded its endorsement of the Republican candidate, saying: "We're at a loss for words." The newspaper added: "We will not stand by that kind of violence, period."

Gianforte's campaign acknowledged an incident but offered a starkly different version of events — one contradicted by witnesses and by audio posted by The Guardian. Gianforte spokesman Shane Scanlon blamed Jacobs for being "aggressive" as he asked questions and for creating a scene.

"Tonight, as Greg was giving a separate interview in a private office, The Guardian's Ben Jacobs entered the office without permission, aggressively shoved a recorder in Greg's face, and began asking badgering questions. Jacobs was asked to leave," Scanlon said.

"After asking Jacobs to lower the recorder, Jacobs declined. Greg then attempted to grab the phone that was pushed in his face. Jacobs grabbed Greg's wrist, and spun away from Greg, pushing them both to the ground. It's unfortunate that this aggressive behavior from a liberal journalist created this scene at our campaign volunteer BBQ."

Audio of the incident posted by The Guardian seemed to directly contradict the Gianforte campaign's version, as did a number of witnesses — including a Fox News crew that was in the room during Wednesday's incident.

Alicia Acuna wrote on Fox News' website that she and a crew were preparing for an interview with Gianforte when Jacobs walked into the room, produced a voice recorder and asked Gianforte a question. After Gianforte rebuffed Jacobs, and Jacobs asked a follow-up question,

Gianforte grabbed him by the neck, Acuna wrote.

"Gianforte grabbed Jacobs by the neck with both hands and slammed him into the ground behind him," she wrote. "Faith, Keith and I watched in disbelief as Gianforte then began punching the man, as he moved on top the reporter and began yelling something to the effect of 'I'm sick and tired of this!'"

In audio of the incident, Gianforte can clearly be heard getting upset. In it, Jacobs asks Gianforte about the Republican health care bill. Gianforte tells him, "Let me talk to you about that later" as Jacobs continues trying to ask a question. "Speak with Shane," Gianforte says, referring to his spokesman.

"The last guy did the same damn thing," Gianforte says.

"You just body-slammed me and broke my glasses," Jacobs says.

"Get the hell out of here," Gianforte yells.

Gootkin, the sheriff, initially declined to file charges, saying that he had not yet listened to full audio of the incident. He subsequently issued a citation.

In March, Gootkin donated $250 to Gianforte's campaign, according to an FEC filing.

"After the press conference it was brought to my attention that people were commenting on a contribution that I made to the Gianforte campaign. I did contribute $250.00 on March 23, 2017. This contribution has nothing to do with our investigation which is now complete," the sheriff stated.

The sheriff said charges followed multiple interviews and an investigation by the Gallatin County Sheriff's Office. He said it was a misdemeanor based on "the nature of Jacobs' injuries."

Other reporters on the scene confirmed via Twitter that they witnessed some sort of altercation between the two.

"I'm not sure I've seen anything like this before," BuzzFeed reporter Alexis Levinson, who was on the scene, tweeted in a long thread. "This happened behind a half-closed door, so I didn't see it all, but here's what it looked like from the outside. Ben walked into a room where a local TV crew was set up for an interview with Gianforte. All of a sudden, I heard a giant crash and saw Ben's feet fly in the air as he hit the floor."

"Ben walked out holding his broken glasses in his hand and said: 'He just body-slammed me,'" Levinson continued.

Whitney Bermes, a reporter for the Bozeman Daily Chronicle, tweeted that the police were called to the scene. The Daily Chronicle also reported that Jacobs was treated by an ambulance on the scene, and Bermes later tweeted that one person was transferred to the hospital.

"Gianforte sitting in a Jeep. Sheriff's deputies were talking to him earlier. Now a medic is at the window talking with him," Bermes also tweeted.

Gianforte then left the event before he was scheduled to speak, according to reporter tweets.

In an interview, Jacobs told MSNBC he approached Gianforte and asked him about the Congressional Budget Office's score of the House bill to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act.

"It was the strangest moment in my entire life reporting," Jacobs said.

He said after calling his editor and police, he went to the hospital to have X-rays because he fell on his elbow.

The Guardian, in a statement released late Wednesday, said it stood by its reporter.

"The Guardian is deeply appalled by how our reporter, Ben Jacobs, was treated in the course of doing his job as a journalist while reporting on the Montana special election," U.S. editor Lee Glendinning said. "We are committed to holding power to account, and we stand by Ben and our team of reporters for the questions they ask and the reporting that is produced."

The Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee called on Gianforte to drop out of the race "after his alleged violent assault of an innocent journalist," spokesman Tyler Law said.

Quist declined to comment on the news after his first Missoula event of the evening, then also didn't address it at his second, a quick rally to thank his supporters at a brewery.

The candidate instead walked on stage, joined his opening act for a song, and repeated much of his stump speech for roughly seven minutes. He then walked off the stage and again declined to answer questions about Gianforte.

Elena Schneider and Cristiano Lima contributed to this report.

To view online click here.

Back

Senate fails to advance methane CRA Back

By Ben Lefebvre | 05/10/2017 10:33 AM EDT

Republicans may have seen their last chance to easily overturn an Obama-era regulation disappear this morning after the Senate failed to advance legislation to repeal an Obama-era rule on methane emissions.

Senators voted 49-51 against a procedural measure to take up the Congressional Review Act resolution reversing the BLM regulation tightening limits on methane leaking from oil wells and pipelines. This week is the last chance for Senate Republicans to block late Obama-era regulations under special CRA rules that block CRA resolutions from being filibustered. Sens. Susan Collins, John McCain and Lindsey Graham joined all Democrats in voting against the motion.

Oil companies have fought to repeal the rule, arguing it would raise their cost of doing business. Democrats and environmentalists have said the rule would increase the amount of methane sold on federal lands, increasing royalty payments into federal coffers.

WHAT'S NEXT: The failed vote prevents Congress from easily reversing the BLM methane rule, but President Donald Trump has directed his administration to review and possibly revise it.

To view online click here.

Back

House clears bill exempting pesticides from Clean Water Act permitting Back

By Annie Snider | 05/24/2017 05:15 PM EDT

The House today has again approved a measure to exempt pesticide applicators from Clean Water Act permitting requirements.

Lawmakers voted 256-165 in favor of Rep. Bob Gibbs' Reducing Regulatory Burdens Act, similar versions of which have been passed multiple times in the past, but failed to gain traction in the Senate.

Proponents of the bill say that Clean Water Act permitting requirements are duplicative and burdensome, since pesticides must also be registered under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act. They also say it hinders the response to public health dangers like mosquitoes carrying the Zika virus.

But Democrats opposing the bill contested both arguments, saying the Clean Water Act requirements are not duplicative since nothing in FIFRA limits the use of pesticides in waterways that are already polluted with too many pesticides. They also point out that applicators can fill out permitting paperwork after the fact when there is a pest emergency.

WHAT'S NEXT: Consideration of the pesticide permitting issue moves to the Senate. Although the House has passed similar measures multiple times since a 2009 court ruling mandating the Clean Water Act permits, the Senate has not acted on them.

To view online click here.

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To: Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
From: POLITICO Pro Energy Whiteboard
Sent: Thur 5/25/2017 10:22:24 PM
Subject: EPA moves to suspend compliance for coal plant discharges rule

By Annie Snider

05/25/2017 06:15 PM EDT

EPA is proposing to suspend compliance dates for an Obama administration regulation limiting toxic discharges from coal-fired power plants while the Trump administration decides how to proceed with the underlying regulation.

EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt today signed a proposed regulation that would suspend the date by which some facilities would have to implement two aspects of the rule, which limits waterborne pollutants like arsenic and lead. Under the final 2015 rule, compliance requirements for those aspects would kick in Nov. 1, 2018.

Pruitt's new proposed rule would postpone those requirements "until EPA promulgates a final rule specifying compliance dates."

EPA moved in April to reconsider the rule, known as effluent limitation guidelines, following industry requests. A federal court has also put pending litigation on hold amid EPA's review. Environmental groups are suing over EPA's decision to indefinitely suspend the rule.

"This proposed rule is one of nearly two dozen significant regulatory reform actions I have taken during my short time as EPA Administrator to protect the environment, jobs and affordable, reliable energy. Today's action, if finalized, will provide relief from the deadlines under the existing ELG Rule while we carefully consider the next steps for this regulation," Pruitt said in a statement.

WHAT'S NEXT: EPA is setting a 30-day public comment period on the proposed rule to suspend compliance dates, which would begin once the rule is published in the Federal Register.

To view online:
https://www.politicopro.com/energy/whiteboard/2017/05/epa-moves-to-suspend-compliance-for-coal-plant-discharges-rule-088334

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Sent: Thur 5/25/2017 1:21:53 AM
Subject: [SPAM] May 25 -- Daily Environment Report



Daily Environment Report

May 25, 2017 - Number 100

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Leading the News

Pesticides

Pesticide Spraying Bill Clears House, But Senate Passage Unclear

The House swiftly passed a bill designed to ease regulatory requirements for farmers and public health officials who spray pesticides over water bodies, putting it on track to reverse a 2009 court opinion that has angered the pest control community for years. But the bill's Senate prospects remain uncertain.

News

Air Pollution

Ozone Plan for Kentucky Due by June 2018, Judge Tells EPA

The EPA has until June 2018 to issue a federal plan to address ozone pollution originating in Kentucky after a federal court approved the agency's partial consent decree with an environmental group.

Biodiversity

Brazil Lawmakers Vote to Shrink Protected Areas of Amazon

Brazil's Senate approved two measures that would reduce by more than 2,200 square miles the size of protected areas in the eastern Amazon.

Budget

House Appropriators Signal Support for More Water Funds

Congress will approve more money for water infrastructure projects than the Trump administration requested, if recent history and the remarks of Republicans and Democrats during a May 24 hearing are any indication.

Chemicals

Chemical Defender Put in Charge of EPA Unit Overseeing Toxins

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency declared 1-bromopropane dangerous enough to make it one of the first 10 chemicals it scrutinized under an updated federal toxins law.

Chemicals

Chemical Priorities Rule Goes to OMB, May Meet June Deadline

A draft final EPA rule describing how the agency will select chemicals for risk assessment is now at the White House Office of Management and Budget for review, indicating it may be issued by its June 22 deadline.

Climate Change

EU Report Tracks Rising Exposure to Natural Hazards

The proportion of the world's population exposed to flood risk increased between 1975 and 2015, while the proportion exposed to tropical cyclone winds fell slightly, according to an atlas of exposure to natural hazards published May 24 by the European Union's in-house science service, the Joint Research Center.

Climate Policy

Trump's Delay Opens Door for European Lobbying on Paris Pact

President Donald Trump hasn't decided if the U.S. will remain a part of the Paris climate accord, Secretary of State Rex Tillerson said, as pressure mounts from Pope Francis, European leaders and Democratic lawmakers at home to remain in the historic pact to address global warming.

Climate Science

More Questions, Few Answers on Climate Interventions: Scientists

Technologies that would allow humans to intervene in the climate change process, such as carbon capture, are not yet viable but raise many questions, scientists commissioned by the federal government to study this issue said.

Coal Mining

Suit Alleging West Virginia Coal Mine Water Violations Revived

Environmental groups in West Virginia revived a previously dismissed lawsuit against a coal company there, saying they now have enough evidence to show Fola Coal Co. is the source of ongoing water pollution (Ohio Valley Envtl. Coal. v. Fola Coal Co. LLC, S.D. W.Va., 2:17-cv-03013, 5/24/17).

EPA

Obama Administration Failed to Protect Environment, Pruitt Says

EPA chief Scott Pruitt skewered his predecessors at a May 24 symposium, arguing contamination crises and court battles are the real environmental legacy of the Obama administration.

Emissions Trading

California Carbon Auction Bounces Back, Raising $475 Million

California's carbon market bounced back in the latest quarterly cap-and-trade auction results released May 24, with the state selling 90 percent of the allowances offered at or above the $13.57 per ton floor price, a stark contrast to a series of low-participation auctions.

Energy

Old Coal Mines Have a Place in the Future of Clean Energy

Ben Chafin sees the future of clean energy in abandoned coal shafts.

Energy

U.S. Nuclear Plant Fails at Auction Despite State Assistance

Even the promise of state subsidies wasn't enough to help a struggling nuclear power plant in the biggest electricity market emerge a victor in a closely watched auction.

Energy

Westinghouse Gets Buyer Interest, Sees Talks Starting Soon

Westinghouse Electric Co. has fielded interest from those looking at buying Toshiba Corp.'s majority stake in the bankrupt U.S. nuclear contractor and expects to begin a sale process in late summer, according to Westinghouse's interim chief executive officer.

Energy

Westinghouse to Emerge From Bankruptcy Stronger, CEO Says

Westinghouse Electric Co., which has filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy, will emerge "quickly, better, stronger," CEO Jose Gutierrez said in his first public speech since the company's filing in a U.S. bankruptcy court in March.

International Climate

Pope Lends Weight to G-7 Push to Bind Trump to Climate Deal

Pope Francis joined an international chorus urging Donald Trump to meet U.S. commitments on climate change in talks at the Vatican May 24.

International Climate

World Bank Sees Batteries as 'Next Frontier' of Climate Spending

The World Bank expects stricter rules for clean-energy auctions to spur investment in batteries and other kinds of energy storage, making the industry segment the "next frontier" of climate finance.

Nanotechnology

European Chemicals Agency Issues Advisory Nano Guidance

The European Chemicals Agency May 24 published updated guidance on how companies could provide information on nanomaterials in the registration dossiers they submit in line with the European Union's REACH chemicals law.

Radioactive Waste

Lawmakers Request Probe of Hanford Tunnel Collapse

Lawmakers are seeking answers from the Government Accountability Office after a recent tunnel collapse at Hanford Nuclear Reservation in Washington state.

Regulatory Policy

Icahn Reaps $60 Million Windfall as Trump Regulations Adviser

Government work has paid off handsomely for billionaire Carl Icahn.

Renewable Energy

U.S. Government Launches Probe into Cheap Imported Solar Cells

The U.S. government opened an investigation into whether American solar-panel manufacturers are being hobbled by cheap imports, marking the first step in a probe that may lead to import tariffs on photovoltaic components.

Science Policy

EPA Seeking New Science Advisers After Departures

The EPA is looking to fill numerous vacancies on one of its scientific advisory boards after

11 of its members were either dismissed or resigned in protest earlier in May.

Toxic Substances

Ruling: No Right to Jury for Federal Chemical Law Claims

A renovation contractor sued under a federal hazardous chemical law has no right to a jury trial when the federal government seeks only an injunction and disgorgement of profits, the Southern District of New York ruled May 23 (United States v. Accolade Constr. Grp., Inc., 2017 BL 172844, S.D.N.Y., No. 15-cv-05855, 5/23/17).

Toxic Substances

State of Entire Building Fair Game in Lead Paint Suit

The mother of an infant allegedly exposed to lead paint in a New York City apartment building is entitled to management company documents related to lead paint in the entire building, a state appeals court ruled (Z.D. v. MP Mgmt., LLC, 2017 BL 171614, N.Y. App. Div., 26043/143436N, 5/23/17).

Water Pollution

New Lawsuits Expected With EPA Decision on Lake Erie Impairment

The EPA finally signed off on Ohio's recommendation to list only part of Lake Erie as an "impaired water" under the Clean Water Act, a step long-sought by environmental advocates who now want to challenge that decision as insufficient to protect the lake.

Regulatory Agenda

TODAY'S FEDERAL REGISTER

NOTICE. Daily Environment Report's Regulatory Agenda, Comment Deadlines, and Federal Register summaries are now published as part of EHS Federal Regulatory AlertTM http://news.bna.com/frmn/.

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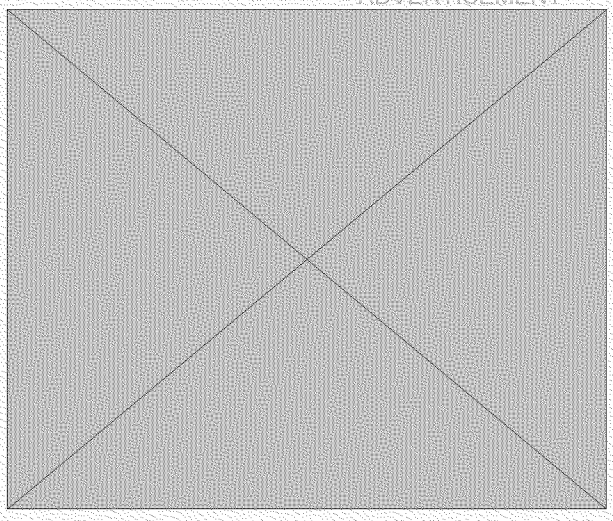
To: Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
From: The Washington Post
Sent: Fri 6/16/2017 4:00:19 PM
Subject: [SPAM] Checkpoint: ISIS drones are attacking U.S. troops and disrupting airstrikes in Raqqa, officials say



The Navy thought this sailor was lost at sea. He was just found alive — on his own ship.

"I just can't believe he's gone," his sister said. Then, Petty Officer 3rd Class Peter Mims was found aboard the USS Shiloh.
By Herman Wong • Read more »

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'What's your end game?' Trump delegating Afghan war decisions to the Pentagon faces scrutiny

The longest war in U.S. history is going to get a little longer.
By Thomas Gibbons-Neff and Dan Lamothe • Read more »

Iranian navy points laser at Marine helicopter in altercation involving three U.S. ships

The incident was deemed "unsafe and unprofessional" by the Navy, U.S. military officials said.

By Dan Lamothe • Read more »

ISIS drones are attacking U.S. troops and disrupting airstrikes in Raqqa, officials say

The drones are finding and attacking U.S. targeting teams.

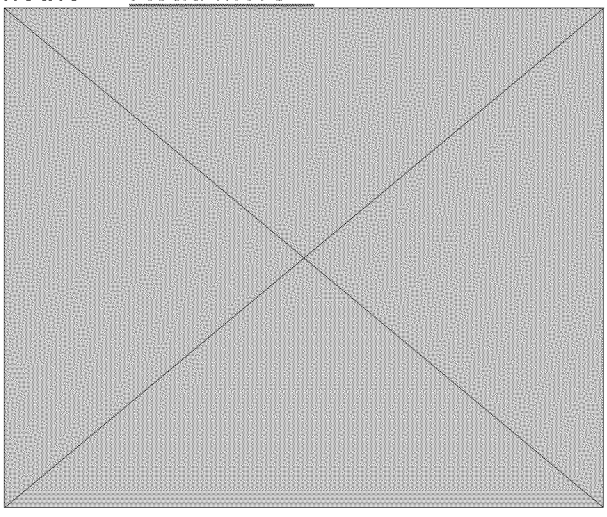
By Thomas Gibbons-Neff • Read more »

Mistaken paint jobs blamed after dozens of U.S.-funded trucks surface in Iraq with Afghan logos

A batch of 94 pickup trucks purchased for Iraq was given the wrong paint jobs and logos.

By Dan Lamothe • Read more »

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Subject: [SPAM] May 24 -- Energy and Climate Report

Energy and Climate Report

May 24, 2017 - Number 99

News

Biodiversity

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Energy and Climate Report

To: Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
From: Bloomberg BNA
Sent: Mon 6/5/2017 12:30:31 PM
Subject: June 05 -- EHS State Regulatory Alert

EHS State Regulatory Alert

June 05, 2017 - Number 106

You can create a report customized by topic, jurisdiction, and date range by using the Regulatory Summaries Report Tool. The report can be generated in Excel, Word, or PDF.

Alaska

WATER
APDES Permit/Statewide Oil and Gas Pipelines
Alaska WATER

Notice of the Department of Environmental Conservation announces the availability of a proposed Alaska Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (APDES) final general permit to authorize discharges of pollutants from facilities and activities related to oil and gas pipeline construction and operations into freshwaters or to dispose onto lands. The permit authorizes discharges of drilling fluids and drill cuttings, domestic wastewater, stormwater and secondary containment. The permit also addresses gravel pit dewatering, excavation dewatering and hydrostatic testing mobile spill response. In addition, the permit authorizes a 500-foot chronic mixing zone for turbidity and residues from inadvertent releases of drilling fluids and drill cuttings, gravel pit dewatering and excavation dewatering discharges. The permit will supersede an expired APDES individual permit for Alyeska Pipeline Services Co. Comments are due June 7, 2017. Contact: Gerry Brown; DEC, Division of Water; 907-269-4874; Gerry.Brown@alaska.gov

—Alaska Regulations (06/01/2017)

Regulatory Update

Indiana

AIR
Burning Regulations/Outdoor Hydronic Heaters
Indiana AIR

Notice of the Department of Environmental Management, Air Pollution Control Division, announces a hearing on an Aug. 17, 2016, proposal to amend regulations under 326 IAC 4-3 regarding outdoor hydronic heaters. The rule eliminates particulate emissions requirements for

new installations that are superseded by federal new source performance standards under 40 CFR 60, Subpart QQQQ. The rule also removes exemptions for homemade units and clarifies that the exemptions for stack height and summertime use also apply to units certified under the NSPS. The hearing is scheduled for July 12, 2017, in Indianapolis. Contact: Keelyn Walsh; DEM, Office of Legal Counsel; 317-232-8229; kwalsh@idem.in.gov

—Indiana Register (05/31/2017)

Regulatory Update

GENERAL ENVIRONMENT AND SAFETY
Natural Resource Commission/Petitions for Rule Change
Indiana GENERAL ENVIRONMENT AND SAFETY

Notice of the Natural Resources Commission announces the availability of a nonrule policy document (Information Bulletin No. 7, Fifth Amendment) regarding the process for the submission and consideration of petitions for rule change and nonrule policy document changes within areas subject to the jurisdiction of the commission. The amendment updates agency contact information. The document is effective May 31, 2017. Contact: NRC; 317-233-0800

—Indiana Register (05/31/2017)

Regulatory Update

OIL AND GAS INDUSTRY
Oil and Gas Production/Violations
Indiana OIL AND GAS INDUSTRY

Notice of the Natural Resources Commission, Division of Oil and Gas, announces the availability of a nonrule policy document (Information Bulletin No. 16, Second Amendment) that provides a civil penalty schedule for violations of oil and gas production laws. The amendment updates agency contact information. The document is dated May 31, 2017. Contact: NRC; 317-233-0800

—Indiana Register (05/31/2017)

Regulatory Update

Michigan

OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH
Occupational Health Standards/Crystalline Silica
Michigan OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH

Notice of the Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs, Director's Office, announces a correction to a March 1, 2017, final rule that adopted regulations under MAC 325.59001, .59005, .59010, .59012 and .59015 concerning occupational exposures to respirable crystalline silica (Part 590). The rule incorporates by reference March 25, 2016, federal standards for respirable crystalline silica under 29 CFR 1910 and 1926, including standards that address ventilation

control, respiratory protection, employee medical records and trade secrets, hazard communication and silica in construction. The rule also sets forth an action level of 25 micrograms per cubic meter of air as an eight-hour time-weighted average and specifies that the standard does not apply when employers have objective data demonstrating that employee exposure will remain below the action level. The correction revises a statutory citation in the definition of "physician or other licensed health care professional." Contact: DLRA; 517-373-1820

—Michigan Register (06/01/2017)

Regulatory Update

New Mexico

AIR
Air Quality Control/Hazardous Air Pollutants
New Mexico AIR

Final rule of the Environment Department, Air Quality Bureau, amends regulations under 20.2.77, 20.2.78 and 20.2.82 NMAC regarding hazardous air pollutants. The rule updates incorporations by reference of federal new source performance standards, national emissions standards for hazardous air pollutants and maximum achievable control technology standards for source categories of hazardous air pollutants to Jan. 15, 2017. The rule is effective May 30, 2017. Contact: Pam Castaneda; Environmental Improvement Board; 505-827-2425; pam.castaneda@state.nm.us

—New Mexico Register (05/30/2017)

Regulatory Update

Ohio

HAZARDOUS WASTE MANAGEMENT
Infectious Waste Incinerator Limitations/Pathological Waste Incinerators
Ohio HAZARDOUS WASTE MANAGEMENT

Proposed rule of the Ohio EPA, Division of Air Pollution Control, rescinds regulations under OAC 3745-75-01 through -105-06 (nonconsecutive) regarding infectious waste incinerators and pathological waste incinerators. The rule removes provisions addressing emission limits, design parameters, operating restrictions, monitoring requirements, recordkeeping and inspections, and compliance. A hearing is scheduled for June 30, 2017, in Columbus. Comments are due June 30, 2017. Contact: Paul Braun; OEPA, Division Air Pollution Control; 614-644-2270; paul.braun@epa.ohio.gov

—Ohio Regulations (05/30/2017)

Regulatory Update

OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH
Building Code/Safety
Ohio OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH

Final rule of the Department of Commerce, Board of Building Standards, rescinds and readopts regulations under OAC 4101:1-1-01 through -35-01 regarding the state building code, including safeguards during construction. The rule reflects the 2015 edition of the International Building Code. The rule is effective Nov. 1, 2017. Contact: Regina Hanshaw; Department of Commerce, Board of Building Standards; 614-644-2613

—Ohio Regulations (05/30/2017)

Regulatory Update

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EHS State Regulatory Alert

To: Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
From: The Washington Post
Sent: Wed 5/24/2017 8:48:42 PM
Subject: Want to understand the CBO score? Read The Health 202

Health care is complicated. Keep up with Health 202

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To: Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
From: Bloomberg BNA
Sent: Mon 6/5/2017 12:11:08 PM
Subject: June 05 -- EHS Federal Regulatory Alert

EHS Federal Regulatory Alert

June 05, 2017 - Number 106

You can create a report customized by topic, jurisdiction, and date range by using the Regulatory Summaries Report Tool. The report can be generated in Excel, Word, or PDF.

Summaries

AIR
Oil and Natural Gas Sector NSPS/Methane and VOC Emissions
AIR

Notice of the EPA announces a grant of reconsideration and the stay of portions of a June 3, 2016, final rule (81 FR 35824) that amended regulations under 40 CFR 60.17 and 60.5360 through 60.5430 (Subpart OOOO) and adopted regulations under 40 CFR 60.5360a through 60.5499a (Subpart OOOOa) to revise the NSPS for the oil and natural gas sector. The rule establishes standards for reducing methane and volatile organic compound (VOC) emissions from certain new, modified and reconstructed equipment, processes and activities across the oil and natural gas source category. The notice stays the effectiveness of the fugitive emissions requirements, the standards for pneumatic pumps at well sites, and the certification by a professional engineer requirements in response to a reconsideration of issues related to low-production well sites, technical infeasibility exemptions, new construction known as "greenfield" and alternative means of emission limitation. The stay is effective June 2, 2017, and expires Aug. 31, 2017. Contact: Peter Tsirigotis; EPA, Sector Policies and Programs Division; 888-627-7764; airaction@epa.gov

82 FR 25730 (06/05/2017)

Regulatory Update

AIR
Solid Waste Incineration Unit Negative Declarations/EPA Region 8
AIR

Direct final rule of the EPA amends regulations under 40 CFR 62.1370 through 62.12630 (nonconsecutive) and adopts regulations under 40 CFR 62.1400 through 62.12660 (nonconsecutive) to approve negative declarations for several categories of solid waste incineration units in Colorado, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah and Wyoming. The negative declarations address small municipal waste combustor (MWC) units, large MWC units, commercial industrial solid waste incineration units, and other solid waste incineration units. The negative declarations certify that there are no designated facilities subject to emissions

guidelines currently operating in these states. The rule is effective Aug. 4, 2017, unless adverse comments are received by July 5, 2017. Contact: Gregory Lohrke; EPA Region 8, Air Program; 303-312-6396; lohrke.gregory@epa.gov

82 FR 25734 (06/05/2017)

Regulatory Update

AIR
Solid Waste Incineration Unit Negative Declarations/EPA Region 8
AIR

Proposed rule of the EPA amends regulations under 40 CFR 62.1370 through 62.12630 (nonconsecutive) and adopts regulations under 40 CFR 62.1400 through 62.12660 (nonconsecutive) to approve negative declarations for several categories of solid waste incineration units in Colorado, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah and Wyoming. The negative declarations address small municipal waste combustor (MWC) units, large MWC units, commercial industrial solid waste incineration units, and other solid waste incineration units. The negative declarations certify that there are no designated facilities subject to emissions guidelines currently operating in these states. A concurrent direct final rule adopts the provisions, effective Aug. 4, 2017. Comments are due July 5, 2017. Contact: Gregory Lohrke; EPA Region 8, Air Program; 303-312-6396; lohrke.gregory@epa.gov

82 FR 25753 (06/05/2017)

Regulatory Update

GENERAL ENVIRONMENT AND SAFETY
Alabama/I-10 Mobile River Bridge and Bayway Widening Project
GENERAL ENVIRONMENT AND SAFETY

Notice announces the intention of the Federal Highway Administration, in cooperation with the Alabama Department of Transportation, to prepare a supplemental environmental impact statement regarding the I-10 Mobile River Bridge and Bayway Widening Project in Baldwin and Mobile counties in Alabama. The project involves increasing the capacity of the interstate by constructing a new bridge across the Mobile River and increasing the I-10 capacity across Mobile Bay from four to eight lanes. The SEIS will evaluate new information regarding changes in project conditions that have occurred since the issuance of the July 2014 draft EIS, which identified Alternative B as the agency's preferred alternative. Issues to be addressed in the SEIS include refinements in Alternative B's storm surge analysis, public lands, bicycle/pedestrian facilities, endangered species, ecological resources and hazardous materials. Comments are requested, but a due date is not specified. Contact: Mark Bartlett; FHWA, 334-274-6350; mark.bartlett@dot.gov

82 FR 25904 (06/05/2017)

Regulatory Update

GENERAL ENVIRONMENT AND SAFETY
Atlantic Coast Pipeline and Supply Header Projects
GENERAL ENVIRONMENT AND SAFETY

Notice of the U.S. Forest Service announces the availability of new information concerning the draft environmental impact statement and draft land and resource management plan (LRMP) amendments (82 FR 1685; 01/06/2017) for the Atlantic Coast Pipeline Project and the Supply Header Project proposed by Atlantic Coast Pipeline LLC and Dominion Transmission Inc., both of Richmond, Va. The draft EIS addressed amendments to the LRMPs for the Monongahela and George Washington national forests and the proposed authorization to construct, operate, maintain and eventually decommission a natural gas transmission pipeline that crosses National Forest System lands. The current notice specifies that in response to a Dec. 15, 2016, Department of Agriculture final rule (81 FR 90723) that amended the national forest land management planning rule, the agency has reconsidered whether a project-specific amendment would be necessary, identified the need for a project-specific amendment and determined that a management prescription reallocation is not necessary for project approval. The notice also specifies changes to the responsible officials for the LRMP amendments and to administrative review procedures. Contact: Karen Overcash; USFS; 540-265-5175; kovercash@fs.fed.us

82 FR 25756 (06/05/2017)

Regulatory Update

GENERAL ENVIRONMENT AND SAFETY
Idaho/Stibnite Gold Project
GENERAL ENVIRONMENT AND SAFETY

Notice announces the intention of the U.S. Forest Service, in cooperation with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, to prepare an environmental impact statement for the Stibnite Gold Project Plan of Restoration and Operations, submitted by Midas Gold Idaho Inc., of Donnelly, Idaho. The EIS will analyze the plan for economic development and operation of a mine and the provision of environmental restoration of impacts related to mining activities at the East Fork of the South Fork of the Salmon River drainage in Valley County, Idaho. The EIS will also address required amendments to the Payette and/or Boise national forest land and resource management plans to resolve inconsistencies between the submitted plan and existing management plans. Comments are due July 20, 2017. Contact: Brian Harris; USFS; 208-634-0784; bdharris@fs.fed.us

82 FR 25759 (06/05/2017)

Regulatory Update

GENERAL ENVIRONMENT AND SAFETY
Mountain Valley and Equitrans Expansion Projects
GENERAL ENVIRONMENT AND SAFETY

Notice of the U.S. Forest Service announces the availability of new information concerning the draft environmental impact statement and draft associated land and resource management plan amendments (81 FR 71041; 10/14/2016) for the Mountain Valley Project (MVP) and the Equitrans Expansion Project. The projects involve the construction and operation of natural gas pipeline facilities by Mountain Valley Pipeline LLC in Virginia and West Virginia and Equitrans LP in Pennsylvania and West Virginia. The draft EIS identified project-specific plan amendments that would be necessary for the construction and operation of the MVP that otherwise could not meet certain standards in the Jefferson National Forest's LRMP. The current notice specifies that in response to a Dec. 15, 2016, Department of Agriculture final rule (81 FR 90723) that amended the national forest land management planning rule, the agency has reconsidered whether a project-

specific amendment would be necessary, identified the need for a project-specific amendment and determined that a management prescription reallocation is not necessary for project approval. The notice also specifies changes to the responsible officials for the LRMP amendments and to administrative review procedures. Contact: Karen Overcash; USFS; 540-265-5175; kovercash@fs.fed.us

82 FR 25761 (06/05/2017)

Regulatory Update

GENERAL ENVIRONMENT AND SAFETY
New York/Rio, Mongaup Falls and Swinging Bridge Hydroelectric Projects
GENERAL ENVIRONMENT AND SAFETY

Notice of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission announces the receipt of a notice of intent from Eagle Creek Hydro LLC, of Morristown N.J., to file a license application for new licenses and commence the pre-filing process for the Rio, Mongaup Falls and Swinging Bridge hydroelectric projects on the Mongaup River in Orange and Sullivan counties in New York. The agency is initiating consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and/or NOAA. An environmental site review will be conducted June 21, 2017. Meetings are scheduled for June 22, 2017, in Monticello, N.Y. Comments are due July 29, 2017. Contact: Quinn Emmering; FERC; 502-6382; quinn.emmering@ferc.gov

82 FR 25787 (06/05/2017)

Regulatory Update

GENERAL ENVIRONMENT AND SAFETY
Texas/Lone Star Project
GENERAL ENVIRONMENT AND SAFETY

Notice of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission announces the availability of an environmental assessment for the Lone Star Project proposed by Tennessee Gas Pipeline Co., of Houston. The project involves the construction and operation of compressor stations in Jackson and San Patricio counties in Texas to provide firm incremental transportation service of up to 300,000 dekatherms of natural gas per day to Corpus Christi Liquefaction LLC. Comments are due June 26, 2017. Contact: FERC; 866-208-3676; FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov

82 FR 25785 (06/05/2017)

Regulatory Update

GENERAL ENVIRONMENT AND SAFETY
Texas/Rio Grande Canalization Project
GENERAL ENVIRONMENT AND SAFETY

Notice of the U.S. Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission announces the availability of a draft supplemental environmental assessment and mitigated finding of no significant impact for flood control improvements to the Rio Grande Canalization Project (RGCP) in El Paso County, Texas. The proposed project includes the construction of a new flood control structure to address deficiencies in portions of the RGCP protective levee system, to maintain

design flood capacity of the levee system, and to obtain accreditation of levees by the Federal Emergency Management Agency. Comments are due July 5, 2017. Contact: Elizabeth Verdecchia; USIBWC; 915-832-4701; Elizabeth.Verdecchia@ibwc.gov

82 FR 25810 (06/05/2017)

Regulatory Update

GENERAL ENVIRONMENT AND SAFETY
UN Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction Meeting
GENERAL ENVIRONMENT AND SAFETY

Notice of the Department of State announces a meeting in preparation for a two-week meeting in July of the United Nations General Assembly Preparatory Committee concerning conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction and the draft text of a legally binding instrument on the matter. The agenda addresses topics to be discussed at the upcoming UN meeting. The meeting is scheduled for June 13, 2017, in Washington, D.C. Contact: Elizabeth Kim; Department of State; 202-647-4824

82 FR 25902 (06/05/2017)

Regulatory Update

GENERAL ENVIRONMENT AND SAFETY
Utah/Cross-Media Electronic Reporting
GENERAL ENVIRONMENT AND SAFETY

Notice of the EPA announces the approval of a request from Utah concerning cross-media electronic reporting requirements. The approval authorizes the state to revise its EPA-authorized programs to allow electronic reporting for its NPDES permit program (40 CFR 123), pretreatment regulations for existing and new sources of pollution (40 CFR 403) and sludge management program regulations (40 CFR 501). The approval is effective June 5, 2017. Contact: Karen Seeh; EPA, Office of Environmental Information; 202-566-1175; seeh.karen@epa.gov

82 FR 25794 (06/05/2017)

Regulatory Update

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS TRANSPORTATION
Motor Carriers/Financial Responsibility Requirements
HAZARDOUS MATERIALS TRANSPORTATION

Notice of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration announces the withdrawal of a Nov. 28, 2014, advance notice of proposed rulemaking (79 FR 70839) that would have amended regulations under 49 CFR 387 to increase the minimum levels of financial responsibility for motor carriers, including liability coverage for bodily injury or property damage. The rule also would have implemented financial responsibility requirements for certain brokers and freight forwarders and revised requirements for self-insurance and trip insurance. The withdrawal is in response to the FMCSA determining that there is not enough data or information available to support moving forward. The withdrawal is effective June 5, 2017. Contact: Jeff Secrist; FMCSA, Registration, Licensing & Insurance Division; 202-385-2367; jeff.secrist@dot.gov

82 FR 25753 (06/05/2017)

Regulatory Update

OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH
Gear Certification Standard
OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH

Notice of OSHA announces the submission of a continuing information collection request to the OMB regarding the gear certification standard (29 CFR 1919). The collection addresses requirements for completing the OSHA 70 Form, which is the application for accreditation to test or examine certain equipment and material handling devices used in the shipyard, marine terminal and longshoring industries (29 CFR 1915, 1917 and 1918). Comments are due July 5, 2017. Contact: Michel Smyth; OSHA; 202-693-4129; DOL_PRA_PUBLIC@dol.gov

82 FR 25818 (06/05/2017)

Regulatory Update

PESTICIDES
Pollinator Health Working Group Meeting
PESTICIDES

Notice of the Department of Agriculture, National Institute of Food and Agriculture, announces a meeting of the Pollinator Health Working Group regarding the development of a national monitoring plan for native bees. The meeting will consist primarily of oral presentations by members of the public seeking to describe the importance of the plan, the data needed, and the use of such data. The meeting is scheduled for June 28, 2017, in Washington, D.C., and via webinar. Comments are requested, but a due date is not specified. Contact: Andrew Clark; USDA, National Institute of Food and Agriculture; 202-401-6550; Andrew.P.Clark@nifa.usda.gov

82 FR 25755 (06/05/2017)

Regulatory Update

TOXIC SUBSTANCES
Chemical Data Reporting/Inorganic Byproduct Chemical Substances
TOXIC SUBSTANCES

Notice of the EPA announces the establishment of a negotiated rulemaking committee to begin development of a proposed rule to amend regulations under 40 CFR 711 regarding chemical data reporting requirements for manufacturers of inorganic byproduct chemical substances when such byproducts are subsequently recycled, reused or reprocessed. The negotiated rule process is mandated by amendments to TSCA that require a proposed rule to limit such reporting requirements to be published by June 22, 2019. The notice announces the selection of Christopher Moore, Ph.D., of Collaborative Decision Resources Associates, and Laura Sneeringer, of the Consensus Building Institute, as the committee facilitators. The EPA plans to invite representatives from inorganic chemical manufacturers and processors; recyclers; industry and environmental advocacy groups; and federal, state or tribal governments to participate as members of the committee. The EPA expects to hold up to five meetings between

June and October 2017. The first meetings are scheduled for June 8-9 and Aug. 16-17, 2017, in Washington, D.C. Comments are request and will be accepted throughout the advisory process. Contact: Susan Sharkey; EPA, Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics; 202-564-8789; Sharkey.susan@epa.gov

82 FR 25790 (06/05/2017)

Regulatory Update

WATER
DOE Energy-Water Nexus State Policy Database
WATER

Notice of the Department of Energy announces a request for information on the draft version of the DOE Energy-Water Nexus State Policy Database of state-level water policies that affect energy systems. The notice specifies that the draft database includes over 1,700 state policies under categories including surface and groundwater rights; discharge requirements for power plant cooling water effluent, stormwater, and wastewater from oil and gas production; underground injection control; state water plans; regional watershed commissions; reservoir and river operations; and integrated energy and water policies. The database is intended to facilitate improved policy analysis, modeling, visualization and communication by states, industry, utilities, academia, federal agencies and other stakeholders. Comments are due Aug. 4, 2017. Contact: Samuel Bockenhauer; DOE, Office of Energy Policy and Systems Analysis; 202-586-9016; samuel.bockenhauer@hq.doe.gov

82 FR 25783 (06/05/2017)

Regulatory Update

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EHS Federal Regulatory Alert

To: Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
From: POLITICO
Sent: Wed 5/24/2017 8:43:25 PM
Subject: BREAKING NEWS: 23 million more uninsured under House Obamacare repeal, CBO says

Roughly 23 million more people would be uninsured over a decade if the House-passed Obamacare repeal bill becomes law, according to a highly anticipated CBO analysis that could complicate Senate Republicans' hopes of getting their own bill through the upper chamber.

The nonpartisan scorekeeping office also forecasts the House plan would cut the deficit by $119 billion over a decade, primarily because of its cuts to Medicaid and private insurance subsidies.

House Republicans approved the bill in April without waiting for the CBO score.

Read more: http://www.politico.com/story/2017/05/24/cbo-report-on-healthcare-reform-238786

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Subject: The Morning Headlines from InsideEPA.com -- June 5, 2017

TRUMP'S EPA: Agency at a crossroads -- Complete coverage

June 5, 2017

Latest News

White House Seen Backing Push To Overhaul 'In-The-Weeds' EPA Policies

The White House appears to be supporting states' calls to overhaul smaller "in-the-weeds" EPA rules such as ending a policy permanently subjecting units to air toxics limits and easing paperwork mandates, seeing backing for targeting these less-prominent rules in lieu of calls to undo "big ticket" Obama-era policies, an industry source says.

Paris Rejection Shows Administration's Conflicted Climate Change Stance

President Donald Trump's decision to withdraw the United States from the Paris Agreement is placing administration officials in a politically awkward position of having to explain seemingly conflicting climate policy stances, while refusing to confirm or deny whether officials see climate change as a problem.

7th Circuit Weighs Dispute On Venue For Suit Over EPA SO2 Designations

A three-judge panel of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 7th Circuit at recent oral argument weighed whether the court is the correct venue for litigation over EPA's designation for part of Southern Illinois as not attaining the federal sulfur dioxide (SO2) standard, a possible test case for other challenges over the designations process.

EPA Says Hudson Remedy Effective, Dismisses Call To Strengthen Cleanup

EPA Region 2 officials have concluded in a review of the cleanup for the Hudson River PCBs Superfund site that remediation is working as intended, although the agency concedes it is "not yet protective," effectively dismissing pleas by the state of New York and lawmakers to use the review as an opportunity to strengthen cleanup requirements for the river.

Trump Offer To 'Renegotiate' Paris Draws Ire Of Foreign Leaders, Democrats

White House officials say President Donald Trump's offer to "renegotiate" the Paris Agreement with an eye to rejoining is "sincere," though it is already drawing heat from

both Democratic lawmakers and foreign leaders -- who say the deal's terms are set in stone and any renegotiation would be a “fig leaf” to weaken the U.S. commitment.

Air Quality Experts Mull Divergent Views Of NO2 Emissions' Health Effects

Air quality researchers from the United States and Europe are mulling divergent views on how to evaluate nitrogen dioxide (NO2) emissions' impacts on human health, with Europeans eyeing an approach that presumes harms in the absence of other data while U.S experts take a more cautious method requiring proof to show harm.

Daily Feed

Wastewater groups amend complaint in CWA testing suit

A federal district court has rejected EPA's bid to dismiss a suit over Clean Water Act permit testing methods after plaintiffs added new evidence that the agency will now have to address.

EIP attacks Republican bills to curb environmental settlements

Environmentalists are warning that pending Republican bills in Congress to limit environmental settlements would significantly harm EPA's enforcement ability.

Ethanol sector urges end to EPA summer limits on E15

Ethanol group Growth Energy wants EPA to end Reid Vapor Pressure rules that limit the sales of 15-percent ethanol during the summer.

White House releases energy lobbyist Catanzaro's ethics waiver

The waiver allows White House energy adviser Michael Catanzaro to work on high-profile EPA policies, even though Trump's ethics pledge generally bars such activities if people recently lobbied on those issues.

EPA pledges to bolster reporting on small business research grants

EPA is crafting new methods for small business research grants data, which the Government Accountability Office says will boost Congress' oversight of the grants.

Ewire: A daily news roundup

Citizens give cautious welcome to EPA's plan for outreach on cleaning up a key Superfund site. Meanwhile, more reaction on the U.S. withdrawal from the Paris climate pact.

OTAQ head denies agency reviewing California air waiver process

EPA's top transportation official says the agency has not launched a comprehensive

review of its process for granting California Clean Air Act waivers to set stricter mobile source air rules than EPA.

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To: Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
From: Morning Transportation
Sent: Fri 6/16/2017 2:09:11 PM
Subject: POLITICO's Morning Transportation, presented by the Association of Equipment Manufacturers: Wherefore art thou, FAA? — Cuban Thaw to freeze back up — Chao: GA groups 'misinformed'

By Lauren Gardner and Tanya Snyder | 06/16/2017 10:02 AM EDT

With help from Stephanie Beasley and Brianna Gurciullo

WHEREFORE ART THOU, FAA? With just two more work weeks until the July Fourth recess, House Transportation Chairman Bill Shuster is nearing crunch time if he wants to get an FAA bill through the committee beforehand. There's buzz that next week could be when bill text surfaces, and general aviation booster (and past air traffic control overhaul skeptic) Sam Graves (R-Mo.) is getting sunnier on the prospects of reaching a deal with Shuster that could win his support, your MT co-host reports. "It's getting a lot better," he said of negotiations, adding a bill could "possibly" drop next week. The panel is targeting the end of the month for a markup.

Meanwhile, in the Senate: Still, Senate Commerce Chairman John Thune said Thursday that he has "not really" witnessed any changes on general aviation in the Senate. He also threw cold water on the idea of any significant new airline customer service protections, saying "I thought we kind of tried to strike a balance in the bill last year, so I'm sure we'll have that discussion. We'll probably have amendments offered in committee at the markup and probably on the floor as well," he said. "But I think we felt like what we did last year was a good place to be."

CHAO: GA GROUPS HAVE BEEN 'MISINFORMED': After a Thursday hearing before House appropriators mostly skeptical of the Trump administration's air traffic control plans, Chao told reporters that officials are "very concerned" about general aviation's concerns, and that "we believe that we can come to an understanding and some of the groups, we believe, are misinformed. And so we want to have a dialogue." Chao added that she "hopes" those talks will wrap up before the FAA's authorization expires Sept. 30.

Let's get hypothetical: If members of the general aviation industry think any new entity running the system is limiting their access to U.S. airspace, they can still appeal to their lawmakers, Chao said. "Being in the private sector, being in the nonprofit sector, does not mean that it's exempt from congressional oversight," she said.

The "certainty" line: Chao echoed some of Shuster's talking points, including the argument that separating air traffic control operations from the FAA will create more funding certainty. "We're concerned about rural America as well," Chao said. "And yet with the uncertainties and the fluctuations in budget funding under the current government system, that is - rural America does not benefit. If there were a steady source of revenue, income ... contract towers, which benefit rural America so much, would actually benefit."

Ice ice baby: Still, Chairman Mario Diaz-Balart (R-Fla.) and other Transportation, Housing and Urban Development Appropriations Subcommittee members showed no signs of warming up to

the idea of splitting ATC operations from the FAA. "I'm concerned that the proposal would reduce or even eliminate, frankly, the public's voice in something as critical as our national air traffic control," Diaz-Balart said.

IT'S FRIDAY: Thanks for tuning in to POLITICO's Morning Transportation, your daily tipsheet on all things trains, planes, automobiles and ports. Lauren and Tanya are sharing MT duties, so please send us tips, feedback and lyrics: tsnyder@politico.com or @TSnyderDC and lgardner@politico.com or @Gardner_LM.

Jump in the Cadillac/(Girl, let's put some miles on it)/Anything you want/(Just to put a smile on you)

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HOW A STREET IN BROOKLYN IS CHANGING THE ENERGY GRID: The shared economy is flourishing, with companies like Airbnb and Lyft capitalizing on the growing popularity of shared services. Can their success be replicated in the energy industry? In the latest installment of **POLITICO Magazine's "What Works"** series, we look at Brooklyn-based LO3 that devised a micro grid system that uses a phone app and smart meters to enable neighbors with solar panels to strike deals amongst themselves on the amount of electricity they buy from each other and at what price. We also look at the revitalization of Tampa, Florida - a broken down deep water port revitalized after 40 years of public and private investment. Read more: Tampa Revitalization | Brooklyn's Energy Grid | Photo Gallery

LOOK MA, NO HANDS: A legislative package on driverless cars is taking shape in the House Energy and Commerce Committee, including several major priorities of developers of self-driving car technology and many of the same concepts from Senate leaders. Tanya has more for Pros, including a legislative summary here.

WE'LL ALWAYS HAVE HAVANA NIGHTS: President Donald Trump will unveil stricter limits on U.S. travel to Cuba today in Miami, but airlines that just months ago were vying for routes to the island may not make too much noise over the policy change, our Brianna Gurciullo reports . The White House will be directing agencies to essentially rein in individual "people-to-people" visits that the administration has decried as a way for travelers to skirt the tourism ban. Brianna writes: "It's likely to have some effect on airline bottom lines. But the reality is that routes to Cuba have already been underperforming. Some airlines - Spirit, Frontier and Silver - have decided to pull out of serving the routes to Cuba they won last year. American Airlines has pared down its service schedule, while JetBlue has switched to smaller airplanes."

TAKATA GOES BUST: Takata Corporation, whose faulty airbag inflators have led to at least 16 deaths and 180 injuries worldwide - and prompted the largest automotive recall in history - is expected to file for bankruptcy. The company is working with U.S. auto parts maker Key Safety Systems Inc. on a financial backing agreement, and Key is now "expected to acquire Takata assets as part of a restructuring in bankruptcy," Reuters reports. Takata owes $850 million to automakers as part of a Justice Department settlement, which included $150 million in other

fines and damages.

COUNTRY ROADS, TAKE ME HOME: In an apparent effort to smooth the politics around passing an infrastructure package in Congress, DOT officials are considering including an entire title related to rural communities. "A new approach will be required to address the needs of rural America," DOT chief of staff Geoff Burr said Thursday at the first meeting of the president's task force on Agriculture and Rural Prosperity. "A lot of the progress, especially in the transportation space, when they innovate they innovate in ways that often begin in urban areas." Pro Ag's Jenny Hopkinson has more.

TSA PUTS ON 3-D SPECS: TSA is piloting technology that would allow airport security to scan travelers' carry-on items as thoroughly as they do checked baggage. The agency announced Thursday that it has introduced computed tomography (CT) technology with 3D scanners at one lane in the Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport, with another planned for Boston later this month.

How does it work? The CT equipment is capable of capturing "hundreds of images with an X-ray camera that spins around the conveyor belt to provide officers with a 3D picture of a carry-on bag," TSA said. The technology is already used for checked baggage, but this marks the first time that smaller versions of the machines will be used at airport security checkpoints in the United States. The pilot is being conducted through a partnership between TSA's Innovation Task Force and American Airlines.

** **A message from the Association of Equipment Manufacturers:** Infrastructure is the backbone of America's economy. The U.S. currently ranks 11th in infrastructure competitiveness. To have the strongest economy in the world, America must have the best infrastructure in the world. It is time to reclaim our Infrastructure Advantage. Learn more: aem.org/Advantage. **

IS THE AUTO INDUSTRY HOARDING SPECTRUM? Automakers have been holding onto a band of radio spectrum since 1999, with the idea that someday they'd use it to let cars talk to each other. Harold Feld, vice president at Public Knowledge, at a POLITICO event Thursday said the industry has squandered its chance, and suggested it is using its valuable, government-provided spectrum to charge customers more for infotainment systems and other in-vehicle apps. "I'd like that business model, too, if I were a car company," he said.

Back atcha: Car companies worry that the frequency could get bogged down and end up with too much interference from other users if it were shared. "You're talking about having people and vehicles rely upon a signal ... that's going to tell you whether or not it's safe to proceed," said David Strickland, counsel and spokesman for the Self-Driving Coalition for Safer Streets and a former NHTSA administrator. He said keeping the 5.9 band just for vehicles helps avoid a situation "where you have a vehicle not communicate while somebody else has faster Netflix." Check out the video of the exchange here.

STOP THE BUS: FMCSA is giving bus companies an extra year to comply with its 2015 final rule on leasing agreements between service providers - a regulation it's also proposing to amend, Lauren reports for Pros. After hearing industry concerns about how the rule would apply in

practice to companies that contract out service from other legitimate carriers to supplement their fleets, regulators are now suggesting they remove those chartering deals from the rule's purview altogether. The rule was intended to curb "questionable lease arrangements" with unsafe companies looking to operate under another carrier's operating authority without supervision.

DEMS WANT CHAO TO COMMIT: Chao again got grilled by Democrats Thursday about an order to disregard oversight requests from minority members. In previous appearances, a flustered Chao struggled to explain how this has been standard practice for some time to a dais full of surprised lawmakers whose understanding, they said, was very different. This time, Chao read straight from what she said was a Department of Justice opinion, saying "the executive branch's longstanding policy has been to engage in the established process for accommodating congressional requests for information only when those requests come from a committee, subcommittee or chairman authorized to conduct oversight." Chao repeatedly said she wasn't here to argue. "I will say that from my point of view, to the extent that I can, it is my intent to work fully on a bipartisan basis, with both sides of the aisle."

Not happy: But after the hearing, Rep. David Price (D-N.C.), the ranking member on the DOT spending panel, blasted Chao's response as being "in stark contrast to the assurances" other Cabinet secretaries gave Democrats this week. "This represents a new level of partisanship that is unprecedented and unacceptable, and it will only serve to worsen gridlock in Washington," he said in a statement.

Definitely, maybe: On the administration's infrastructure package, Chao told lawmakers that talk about tying it to a tax code overhaul has "receded." "But that, again, may change," she added.

HOW DO YOU SAY 'JOBS, JOBS, JOBS' IN ARABIC? The U.S. Travel Association is releasing new data today showing that Persian Gulf carriers brought nearly 1.7 million additional visitors to the U.S. and that those visitors spent nearly $7.8 billion during their trips, supporting nearly 80,000 additional U.S. jobs. "Emirates, Etihad and Qatar Airways fly to the U.S. from previously underserved routes around the world, and provide needed disruption in the U.S. aviation space," said U.S. Travel Association President and CEO Roger Dow. Two of the three Gulf airlines are members of the association.

MT MAILBAG: Several drone and aviation groups sent a letter to lawmakers Thursday to hold off on tackling the issue of whether state and local governments should regulate aspects of low-level drone flight when drafting their FAA reauthorization bills this summer. The agency's Drone Advisory Committee is studying whether it can reach consensus recommendations, and the groups want that process to play out before any major changes are made "to longstanding federal governance of the" National Airspace System.

SLICE OF PI: Geoff Bowman is joining Van Scoyoc Associates as a vice president, per our friends at POLITICO Influence. He was previously staff director of the House Transportation Water Resources and Environment Subcommittee.

THE AUTOBAHN:

- "What to expect at the Paris Air Show." CNN Money.

- "Cuomo demands Amtrak foot the bill for LIRR mitigation efforts." POLITICO New York.

- "Pedestrian Scramble: D.C. Revives An Idea From The 1940s To Reduce Accidents." WAMU.

- "Maryland to ask judge to allow Purple Line to proceed while court fight continues." The Washington Post.

- "Pilot injured when blimp goes down near US Open in Wisconsin." The Associated Press.

- "Pruitt: EPA not reviewing California car emissions waiver." POLITICO Pro.

THE COUNTDOWN: DOT appropriations run out in 107 days. The FAA reauthorization expires in 107 days. Highway and transit policy is up for renewal in 1,203 days.

** **A message from the Association of Equipment Manufacturers:** America's infrastructure used to be the envy of the world, but decades of chronic underinvestment and neglect has left us on the verge of losing that advantage. The Association of Equipment Manufacturers believes it is time for the United States to reclaim its Infrastructure Advantage.
To effectively compete in the global marketplace, America's infrastructure must be number one in the world. That's the Infrastructure Advantage. So how do we reclaim it? Here are five key steps. Focus on network and systems. Maximize the use of smart technology. Ensure rural-urban connectivity. Expedite project delivery. Provide adequate and reliable resources. Now is the time to act. It is time to prioritize America's roads and canals, railroads and highways, locks and dams, pipelines and broadband. Learn more about The U.S. Infrastructure Advantage™: aem.org/Advantage. **

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Daily Environment Report

Afternoon Briefing - Your Preview of Today's News

The following news provides a snapshot of what Bloomberg BNA is working on today. Read the full version of all the stories in the final issue, published each night. The Bloomberg BNA Daily Environment Report is brought to you by EPA Libraries. Please note, these materials may be copyrighted and should not be forwarded outside of the U.S. EPA. If you have any questions or no longer wish to receive these messages, please contact Josue Rivera-Olds at rivera-olds.josue@epa.gov, 202-566-1558.

EPA Seeking New Science Advisers After Departures

Posted May 24, 2017, 10:24 A.M. ET

By David Schultz

The EPA is looking to fill numerous vacancies on one of its scientific advisory boards after 11 of its members were either dismissed or resigned in protest earlier in May.

The agency is accepting nominations for its Board of Scientific Counselors, a body of outside scientists who advise the Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Research and Development, according to a notice scheduled to appear in the May 25 Federal Register. It will be accepting nominations through July 21.

The EPA is casting a wide net for nominations for the board. The agency is asking for recommendations of scientists who specialize in dozens of different fields, from toxicology to environmental justice to nanotechnology.

Earlier this month, the EPA declined to renew the terms of nine members of the board, which in turn prompted two additional members to resign. The board's chair, retired University of Minnesota professor Deborah Swackhamer, said at a May 23 House Science subcommittee hearing that she was not given notice that these scientists would no longer be allowed to serve on the committee.

The board's next subcommittee meeting is in August, but Swackhamer questioned whether the agency will be able to fill all of the empty slots by then. She said the EPA will have to review any of its nominees for financial and conflict-of-interest issues, and also review whether the nominees have the basic expertise needed to serve on the board.

Westinghouse Exiting the Nuclear Plant Construction Business

Posted May 23, 2017, 09:20 P.M. ET

By Rebecca Kern

Westinghouse Electric Co. plans to exit the construction side of the nuclear business, following the company's bankruptcy filing, a company executive told Bloomberg BNA.

"Construction is not our forte, and we certainly have decided from a risk perspective, never to do that again," David Howell, Westinghouse's president of the Americas region, said in an interview May 23 on the sidelines of the Nuclear Energy Assembly annual meeting in Scottsdale, Ariz.

Westinghouse is planning for all of its global businesses to focus on engineering and procurement services, and not offer construction services, Howell said.

Westinghouse filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy March 29 in the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of New York, following billions of construction cost overruns associated with the build of two nuclear reactors owned by Southern Co. in Georgia and two owned by SCANA Corp. in South Carolina. Westinghouse took over as engineering-procurement-construction contractor of the nuclear plants after it acquired the U.S. nuclear construction contractor CB&I-Stone & Webster in 2015.

Westinghouse is in the process of receiving an $800 million loan from Apollo Global Management LLC, with approval from the bankruptcy court expected May 24. However, it is barred from using any of the credit for nuclear construction at the plants, Mark Marano, Westinghouse's chief operating officer, told Bloomberg BNA May 23.

Southern Co. has reached an interim agreement until June 3 with Westinghouse to continue construction of the Georgia reactors while the companies finalize and gain approval for a new service pact. Similarly, SCANA Corp. and Santee Cooper, South Carolina's state-owned utility, agreed to an extension of an interim agreement with Westinghouse ensure construction of the reactors through June 26.

Westinghouse expects to file a business plan in bankruptcy court and with a debtor-in-possession financing committee led by Apollo Global Management in July, Howell said. The company expects approval of the plan "some months after," he said.

Westinghouse to Emerge From Bankruptcy Stronger, CEO Says

Posted May 24, 2017, 12:22 P.M. ET

By Rebecca Kern

Westinghouse Electric Co., which has filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy, will emerge "quickly, better, stronger," CEO Jose Gutierrez said in his first public speech since the company's filing in a U.S. bankruptcy court in March.

Westinghouse is working with Southern Co. and SCANA Corp., the owners of the Vogtle and V.C. Summer nuclear plants that are under construction in Georgia and South Carolina, respectively, "to find a long-term solution to complete those reactors," Gutierrez said May 24 at the Nuclear Energy Assembly conference in Scottsdale, Ariz.

"We hope that those reactors get built. We hope they do a better job than we did," Gutierrez said.

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Southern District of New York, after experiencing billions of dollars of construction cost overruns associated with the building of the four AP1000 nuclear reactors in Georgia and South Carolina. Westinghouse took over as engineering-procurement-construction contractor of the nuclear plants after it acquired the U.S. nuclear construction contractor CB&I Stone & Webster Inc. in 2015.

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World Bank Sees Batteries as`Next Frontier' of Climate Spending

Posted May 24, 2017, 10:14 A.M. ET

By Jessica Shankleman

The World Bank expects stricter rules for clean-energy auctions to spur investment in batteries and other kinds of energy storage, making the industry segment the "next frontier" of climate finance.

Countries including India and Morocco are tightening parameters on renewable power developers to ensure wind and solar farms provide more predictable flows of electricity. That means the intermittent generators increasingly need to invest in energy storage, John Roome, senior director of climate change for the World Bank, said in an interview in London.

The Washington-based development bank sees energy storage as a key technology for its efforts to scale up finance targeted for environmental projects as it moves away from backing mainstream renewable technologies such as solar and wind that are attracting investment on their own, he said.

The World Bank has said its climate financing could increase to as much as $29 billion a year by 2020, as part of a pledge to raise the share of spending on climate change mitigation and adaptation by one third.

Global battery-making capacity is set to more than double by 2021, reaching 278 gigawatt-hours, up from about 103 gigawatt-hours now, according to Bloomberg New Energy Finance.

Yet the higher costs for batteries now means bids for renewable projects with storage attached will be more expensive, said Roome. The World Bank would work with companies to offer transitional finance to help "blend down" the costs.

The government of Jordan is also considering requiring storage in its upcoming renewable energy auction, said Alzbeta Klein, director for climate business at the bank's International Finance Corp. The battery storage market is still in early development stages, with richer countries such as the U.S. and South Korea, leading the market, she said.

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U.S. Government Launches Probe into Cheap Imported Solar Cells

Posted May 24, 2017, 10:00 A.M. ET

By Joe Ryan

The U.S. government opened an investigation into whether American solar-panel manufacturers are being hobbled by cheap imports, marking the first step in a probe that may lead to import tariffs on photovoltaic components.

The U.S. International Trade Commission is instituting the probe at the request of Suniva Inc., a bankrupt Georgia-based manufacturer that said it was unable to compete with low-cost solar cells made predominately in China. Officials will conclude by Sept. 22 whether the company had suffered damages, the ITC said in a May 23 notice.

"We are pleased that the Commission has taken this next step and initiated the investigation of this case," Matt Card, a Suniva executive, said in a statement.

Suniva requested import duties of 40 cents per watt for solar cells produced outside the U.S. and a floor price of 78 cents per watt for panels. The International Trade Commission will do the initial analysis of the complaint; the final decision on whether to back Suniva rests with President Donald Trump.

The case, filed by Suniva in April, has rattled the solar industry. The duties Suniva is requesting are forecast to double the price of panels and may imperil 260,000 jobs, according the Solar Energy Industries Association.

Suniva's majority owner, Shunfeng International Clean Energy Ltd. of China, has also objected, saying the move is "not in the best interests" of clean energy markets.

"The International Trade Commission's decision to consider Suniva's petition for a lifeline could be bad news for hundreds of thousands of American workers in the solar industry and may jeopardize billions of dollars in investment in communities across the country," SEIA chief executive Abigail Ross Hopper said in a statement. Tariffs and floor prices are "a blunt instrument that would cripple one of the brightest spots in America's economy."

Solar installations in the U.S. have soared in recent years, largely because of low-cost panels made in China. Suniva's largest creditor, SQN Capital Management, required the manufacturer file the trade case as a condition of its Chapter 11 bankruptcy financing.

The ITC said it would take longer than normal to investigate the case, saying it was "extraordinarily complicated." The agency plans to send a report with its recommendations to the president by Nov. 13.

--With assistance from Jennifer A. Dlouhy.

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Chemical Defender Put in Charge of EPA Unit Overseeing Toxins

Posted May 24, 2017, 8:47 A.M. ET

By Lauren Coleman-Lochner

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency declared 1-bromopropane dangerous enough to make it one of the first 10 chemicals it scrutinized under an updated federal toxins law.

Nancy Beck disagreed. The EPA's finding, she told a Senate hearing in March, "is not consistent with the best available science." At the time, she represented the American Chemistry Council, an industry group whose members include Dow Chemical Co. and Exxon Mobil Corp.

Now Beck has moved to EPA, where she'll be heading the unit overseeing the toxics law.

President Donald Trump has set up an adversarial dynamic between EPA staff and their new bosses. Trump's administrator, Scott Pruitt, sued the agency over regulations when he was Oklahoma's attorney general. Now comes Beck, who spent five years at the ACC, where she became known as a critic of EPA risk assessments. Beck's task in government will be implementing the Frank R. Lautenberg Chemical Safety for the 21st Century Act, enacted last year after long and contentious negotiations between lawmakers, environmentalists and the industry, to regulate chemicals in commerce.

Industry Lobbying

"It's disappointing, after a bipartisan legislative process that tried to respect the interests of all the parties, that an ACC official with a long history of hostility and a long history of lobbying for the industry is now being put in a position of controlling the policies and decisions of the EPA office responsible for implementing the new law," said Robert Sussman, a former EPA official who serves on the National Academy of Science's environmental science and toxicology board.

The EPA declined to comment. Beck referred a request for comment to the agency, which declined to comment.

"Dr. Beck is a dedicated scientist who brings with her to the agency extensive expertise in chemical management policy," said Scott Openshaw, a spokesman for the ACC.

In her Senate testimony, Beck questioned the research methods that showed 1-bromopropane, used in degreasers and adhesive sprays, puts users at risk for lung cancer and kidney and reproductive harm.

Beck has also criticized the EPA's Integrated Risk Information System, a program that assesses the extent of a chemical's toxicity. In her March testimony, she called the program outdated and reliant upon outmoded and overly conservative methods to weigh risk.

"EPA did not adequately consider study quality" or industry findings when making assessments, producing "overly conservative" estimates of cancer risk, she wrote. The White House's U.S. government budget for fiscal year 2018 cuts EPA funding 31 percent.

Health Risks

"This is a shift in how we define acceptable public health risks in this country," said Thomas Burke, a professor at the Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health in Baltimore and former EPA adviser.

Beck is a respected scientist who fulfilled her role as an advocate for the industry, Burke said. It "remains to be seen" whether she'll take a different approach as a representative of an agency charged with protecting health and the environment.

Scott Faber, vice president of Government Affairs for the Environmental Working Group, called Beck's appointment, in an administration that has pledged to drain Washington's swamp, "the most brazen act of hypocrisy yet. There's no one who has done more to delay and ultimately deny protection from chemicals linked to cancer than Nancy Beck. Trump's EPA has completely abdicated its responsibility to keep us safe."

Beck has worked in government before. She spent almost a decade, until 2012, at the Office of Management and Budget, where she advised the agency on chemical risks and policy.

Politicizing Science

A letter this month to Pruitt, signed by two dozen health and environmental groups, pointed to a report Beck wrote about risk assessment that was withdrawn after the National Academy of Sciences called it "fundamentally flawed."

While she was at OMB, Beck's actions were called into question as "potentially politicizing" the agency's role to review EPA decisions on behalf of the White House and "second-guessing the professional judgment of career risk assessors," Andy Igrejas, founder of Safer Chemicals Healthy Families, said in the letter.

Beck was front and center in negotiations over revising the 40-year-old toxics regulations signed into law last year, said Andrew Rosenberg, director of the Center for Science and Democracy at the Union of Concerned Scientists. Her former group, the ACC, has pushed back on regulation in the face of what will always be a degree of uncertainty of how substances impact human health, he said.

"If you only restrict when you're certain, you wouldn't do anything," Rosenberg said. "The position at EPA is to protect the public interest."

--With assistance from Jennifer A. Dlouhy.

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Old Coal Mines Have a Place in the Future of Clean Energy

Posted May 24, 2017, 9:13 A.M. ET

By Joe Ryan

Ben Chafin sees the future of clean energy in abandoned coal shafts.

The Virginia state senator, whose Appalachian district is pockmarked with empty mines, pushed through legislation in April that encourages companies to transform those tunnels into giant storage devices to hold vast amounts of renewable power.

The idea, which Dominion Energy Inc. has been studying, is to fill mines with water and then use

electricity from wind and solar farms to pump it up to a reservoir on the surface. When utilities need power, operators open floodgates, letting water gush back into turbines on its way down.

"Voila—you have electricity," said Chafin, a Republican. "These deep mines can act just like a giant battery."

The technology Chafin is pushing is not new—its first use was for a Swiss hydroelectric plant in 1909. But it wasn't until the 1960s and 1970s that the technology flourished, mostly to store surplus energy from nuclear plants. It has since been largely ignored—until now. As wind and solar boom, the need for grid-scale alternatives to lithium ion batteries has increased.

Unlike coal and gas generators, wind and solar farms don't provide a steady flow of electricity—the sun doesn't always shine and winds kick up and die down, defying forecasts. Giant batteries have long been considered the elusive solution to balancing clean energy's ebbs and flows, allowing it to be more widely used.

The problem is that lithium ion batteries—the technology used, for instance, in Tesla cars—just can't be built large enough to get the job done. That's got developers scouting deep holes in the ground, re-imagining this old technology that relies on little more than gravity and millions of gallons of water.

It remains to be seen whether pumped storage technology will actually work in old mines. Nonetheless, developers from Germany, to the U.K., to the U.S. are giving the idea a try.

High above the sand and sagebrush of southeastern California, a transmission line runs along Interstate 10, connecting solar farms in the Sonoran Desert to Los Angeles. From daybreak to nightfall, that line crackles with electricity as photovoltaic panels soak up the sun. It goes quiet just as millions of people turn on their lights.

"When the sun sets, that line goes empty," said Steve Lowe, president of Eagle Crest Energy Co. "We want to do something about it."

Eagle Crest is partnering with NextEra Energy, Inc., the U.S.'s biggest clean energy developer, to build a 1.3 gigawatt, pumped-hydro facility near a sun-baked crossroads named Desert Center. The $2 billion project, already approved by federal regulators, could stockpile enough electricity to power nearly 1 million homes.

It will utilize two pits left over from a defunct iron-ore mine dug into the side of a mountain. During the day—when solar power floods the grid—pumps will move water to the upper pit, ready for release at night. Lowe estimates it will take six years to build.

For all the talk of lithium ion as the future, pumped hydro is by far the most prevalent form of energy storage in the U.S., accounting for about 97 percent of capacity. There are more than 40 existing facilities nationwide, with a combined capacity of more than 20 gigawatts. That's enough to power all of New York City for several hours.

"They are the hidden story of the electricity grid," said Jeff Leahey, deputy executive director of the National Hydropower Association. "But they are not sexy."

Nor are pumped-hydro facilities easy or quick to build. The technology may be elementary, but it requires just the right spot, with a steep ascent and room for lots of water. Even a small project can

cost $1 billion, Leahey said. And since almost no one is building nuclear reactors these days, just a handful of pumped-hydro plants have been constructed in the U.S. over the last 25 years.

Renewables may change that.

Amid the stony ridges of Pennsylvania and Maryland, Adam Rousselle, a former transmission-industry executive, has teamed up with his son to create a new company, Merchant Hydro Developers LLC. The pair are like modern-day wildcatters, using a computing mapping system to pinpoint 21 spots on which to build pumped hydro projects adjacent to wind farms. The Rouselles have applied for licenses to build on those sites and are in talks with utilities and potential investors.

Nearly all of their potential building sites are on abandoned strip mines. The advantage, Rousselle said, is that they are already environmentally despoiled.

"You can't do anything worse to an abandoned mine than what humankind has already done," said Rousselle, the company's president.

Back in Virginia, Chafin envisions pumped hydro as an economic shot in the arm for his district. The region, 300 miles (483 kilometers) west of Richmond, has double-digit unemployment. A $1 billion construction project, Chafin said, could put plenty of miners back to work. His legislation, which takes effect in July, would fast-track the permitting process for pumped hydro in the state's coal region.

Shoehorning generators into mine shafts won't be easy, said Rick Miller, who specializes in hydropower for HDR Inc., an engineering and construction company based in Omaha. "Theoretically, you could do it," Miller said. "But it would be incredibly expensive."

It's also unclear whether the mid-Atlantic region needs more electricity. The area is already awash with cheap power, thanks to inexpensive Marcellus shale gas. And the region's grid manager, PJM Interconnection LLC, recently slashed its 10-year demand outlook.

Chafin, undeterred, believes hydro power could save coal country.

"I'd love to see the coal industry boom again," he said. "But we need to diversify our economy and get people back to work."

—With David Ingold.

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Pope Lends Weight to G-7 Push to Bind Trump to Climate Deal

Posted May 24, 2017, 7:30 A.M. ET

By Margaret Talev and Lorenzo Totaro

Pope Francis joined an international chorus urging Donald Trump to meet U.S. commitments on climate change in talks at the Vatican May 24.

Francis gave the U.S. president a copy of his 2015 encyclical calling for urgent, drastic cuts in fossil-fuel emissions after a half-hour meeting in his private study.

Francis's choice of gift suggests he is adding his voice to those who are urging Trump not to renege on the Paris accord, which is the cornerstone of global efforts to limit climate change. The Vatican said in a statement that the talks focused on international affairs and the promotion of peace, with particular emphasis on health care, education and immigration.

"Thank you, thank you," Trump told Francis as they shook hands after the meeting. "I won't forget what you said." Trump has said climate change might be a hoax perpetrated by the Chinese.

For his part, Trump gave Francis a special edition of the works of U.S. civil rights leader Martin Luther King.

Trump met with Italian Prime Minister Paolo Gentiloni later on May 24 before he travels to Brussels for a NATO meeting. He'll be back in Italy again on May 26 for talks with Group of Seven leaders in Taormina, Sicily. The world's biggest developed economies are expecting Trump to say whether he'll keep the U.S. in the Paris climate accord during the summit, Germany's environment minister Barbara Hendricks, said May 22.

French President Emmanuel Macron will push Trump over climate during the NATO meeting as part of a coordinated European effort to sway the president, a French government official said May 24, adding that he had expected the pope and Gentiloni also to raise the issue. The official said that the questions over what the U.S. will decide have led to unprecedented uncertainty over what the G-7 will be able to say in its final communique.

Members of the Trump administration have been deadlocked over whether the U.S. should uphold the pact, brokered by nearly 200 nations in 2015. Leaders from Germany, China and other nations have pushed for America to stay.

Pressure has also come from business groups, including 280 investors representing more than $17 trillion in assets who released a statement May 22 saying climate change must be an "urgent priority" for all G-20 nations. Executives have warned that Trump would put U.S. companies at a disadvantage if he pulled out of the pact.

As the richest nation and the second-largest polluter, U.S. efforts are central to keeping climate change from hitting an irreversible tipping point, unleashing catastrophic floods, droughts and storms, according to researchers. The U.S. has pledged to reduce its emissions by at least 26 percent from 2005 levels under the world's broadest ever environmental agreement.

The meeting at the Vatican was the first between two leaders who have starkly differing views on a range of issues and was arranged at Trump's request. Beyond their disagreements on the environment, Francis wants the world's doors swung open to refugees, while Trump wants fewer of them in America. Income inequality is a serious concern for the pope -- the billionaire president plans to rewrite the U.S. tax code to make the wealthy even richer.

For the president, it's an encounter that may confer some legitimacy as he grapples with a political crisis back home. For Francis, it's a chance to influence a leader who, for all his stumbles, remains the most powerful person in the world.

"There's a whole range of issues on which the pope and Trump differ, but the point of their meeting isn't to forge agreement on them or to change each other's minds," papal biographer Austen Ivereigh said in a telephone interview. "The point is to establish a bond of trust, which they can both call on in the future to further their agendas."

Symbol of Peace

Francis arrived at the courtyard of the Apostolic Palace in a Ford Focus and entered the building through a side entrance. Ten minutes later, the president's motorcade was greeted by Swiss Guards who stood to attention with their halberds and ostrich-plumed helmets. The pope welcomed Trump upstairs in the Sala del Tronetto before the two leaders retired to his private study for a half-hour conversation.

"It was an honor to be with the pope," Trump told reporters later in the morning. "We had a fantastic meeting," he added, without addressing a shouted question on whether they discussed climate change.

As well as the text on environmental protection, which Francis said he's sent to all Roman Catholics, the pope also gave Trump books on family and the joy of the gospel.

"I'll be reading them," the president told him.

He also gave Trump a medal made by a Roman artist depicting an olive. The pope told Trump the olive is a symbol of peace.

"That's so beautiful," the president said. "We can use peace."

--With assistance from John Follain, Alessandra Migliaccio and Helene Fouquet.

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EU Report Tracks Rising Exposure to Natural Hazards

Posted May 24, 2017, 01:54 P.M. ET

By Stephen Gardner

The proportion of the world's population exposed to flood risk increased between 1975 and 2015, while the proportion exposed to tropical cyclone winds fell slightly, according to an atlas of exposure to natural hazards published May 24 by the European Union's in-house science service, the Joint Research Center.

However, the absolute number of people exposed to all natural hazards has risen because of population growth and the greater concentration of people in urban areas located in at-risk zones, the Atlas of the Human Planet 2017 said. For example, the number of people in areas at risk of floods rose from 520 million in 1975 to 1.04 billion in 2015.

The proportion of the global population facing flood risk rose from 12.7 percent to 14.1 percent, while the proportion at risk of severe or extreme tropical storms declined from 25.2 percent (1.03 billion) to 23.3 percent (1.73 billion), according to the report. Global warming is increasing flood and tropical cyclone risk, with people in Asia facing the greatest threats from these hazards, the report said.

Earthquakes are the natural hazard faced by the greatest proportion of the world's population, with 36.8 percent of people (2.7 billion) currently living in seismic areas, compared to 34.5 percent (1.4

billion) in 1975, the report added.

Better understanding of human exposure to natural hazards is "useful in identifying effective policy actions for more resilient communities," the report said.

European Chemicals Agency Issues Advisory Nano Guidance

Posted May 24, 2017, 03:17 P.M. ET

By Stephen Gardner

The European Chemicals Agency May 24 published updated guidance on how companies could provide information on nanomaterials in the registration dossiers they submit in line with the European Union's REACH chemicals law.

However, the agency emphasized that the guidance should be considered "advisory best practice" rather than formal guidelines, in the wake of a March ruling of its Board of Appeal that the chemicals agency had limited power to request nano-specific substance information from REACH registrants separate from information relating to the bulk form of a chemical.

The extent to which companies should provide nano-specific information in their registration dossiers has been a long-running gray area under REACH (Regulation No. 1907/2006 on the registration, evaluation and authorization of chemicals). In the March ruling, the Board of Appeal annulled a European Chemicals Agency request to a company for information on the substance identity of nano forms of titanium dioxide on the basis that under REACH, companies are "at liberty to give a broad definition" of a substance that covers both its bulk and nano forms.

The advisory guidance said that it "does not aim to give potential registrants advice on how to fulfill their information requirements for the substances they are registering," but that the submission of nano-specific information was recommended so that REACH registration dossiers address "hazards posed by all possible forms" of a registered chemical.

National Registries

Nanoscale substances can have structures thousands of times smaller than the width of a human hair. The properties of a nanoscale version of a chemical can differ from the same chemical with larger-scale structures.

REACH requires importers and manufacturers of chemicals to file registrations with the European Chemicals Agency as a condition of access to the EU market. The final REACH registration deadline, for the lowest volume and most specialized chemicals, falls on May 31, 2018.

Anthony Bochon, a senior associate with Squire Patton Boggs in Brussels, told Bloomberg BNA May 24 that "nothing obliges companies to provide more information" on nanoengineered chemicals separate from their bulk forms—despite the chemicals agency's advice.

The agency aimed to "strengthen an EU-coordinated approach" on the gathering of information on nanoengineered chemicals in the context of national initiatives in some EU countries requiring notification of nanomaterial use, Bochon said.

Belgium, Denmark and France have national obligations relating to the notification of nanomaterials

placed on their respective markets, and Sweden is considering a nanomaterial registry, Bochon said.

The countries with nanomaterial registries "have really seized this topic," highlighting the limited information on nanomaterials collected via REACH registration dossiers, Bochon added.

The European Chemicals Agency has requested clarity from the European Commission, the EU's executive arm, on the information it can ask from REACH registrants on nanoengineered chemicals.

The commission carried out a consultation in 2013 on how the REACH annexes should be modified to better specify information requirements related to nanoengineered chemicals, but no proposal on the information requirements has appeared.

Icahn Reaps $60 Million Windfall as Trump Regulations Adviser

Posted May 24, 2017, 8:31 A.M. ET

By Mario Parker

Government work has paid off handsomely for billionaire Carl Icahn.

CVR Energy Inc., his oil refining company, saved about $60 million in the first quarter because of expectations that the federal government will ease a regulation involving renewable fuels, securities filings show.

It's much more than a lucky break. As a "special regulatory adviser" to President Donald Trump, Icahn himself has been advocating the kind of relief that will benefit his company.

Icahn's cost savings show how the Trump administration has let officials' outside business interests influence policy decisions. Richard Painter, a University of Minnesota Law School professor and White House ethics counsel under President George W. Bush, calls Icahn's role "a clear conflict of interest."

Even before the magnitude of Icahn's gain was known, a group of U.S. Democratic lawmakers sent a letter to regulators urging them to investigate whether Icahn used his role as adviser to gain unfair trading advantages.

Brandee Stephens, a spokeswoman for Sugar Land, Texas-based CVR declined to comment. Icahn didn't return several messages left for comment.

Icahn's windfall results from potential changes in the George W. Bush-era law known as the Renewable Fuel Standard. It requires that billions of gallons of biofuel be added to the nation's gasoline. Today, about 10 percent of U.S. motor fuel is made from corn, not oil.

Biofuel Mandate

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency enforces this mandate by requiring refineries and importers to blend in ethanol and other biofuels, or buy credits from those who do the blending. The credits, called renewable identification numbers, or RINs, trade in an over-the-counter market.

CVR's refineries in Kansas and Oklahoma rely mostly on buying RINs. Icahn has said a spike in the

price of the credits last year had cost the company $200 million annually. He became an advocate of changing EPA rules so fuel blenders, rather than refiners, face the compliance burden.

On March 9, Icahn said he was betting against the credits by delaying purchases in the expectation their value would fall. It has already been a shrewd wager for CVR, in which Icahn Enterprises LP owns an 82 percent stake. Prices for RINs have dropped 19 percent since Trump's election.

Consider the swing in the cost of the credits at CVR, which spent $53.5 million in the fourth quarter of 2016 and saw a $6.4 million benefit in the first quarter, filings show. It wasn't clear why the company reported a gain.

Other refiners such as San Antonio, Texas-based Valero Energy Corp. have benefited, too. A Bloomberg analysis of regulatory filings by eight refiners found they spent $397 million in the first-quarter on the energy credits, down from $583 million in the fourth quarter, according to regulatory filings.

Other market forces also may be at work. Refiners have been blending record amounts of ethanol into gasoline this year, so there's speculation that there will be more than enough to meet demand, according to Mark Broadbent, a senior research analyst who covers refiners at Wood Mackenzie in Houston.

The cost savings from the credits make up only part of Icahn's recent winnings from CVR. In the six months since Trump's Nov. 8 election win, the value of Icahn's stake in the Texas refiner has increased by more than $600 million, to $1.6 billion.

Icahn said the EPA rules have resulted in an arbitrary transfer of wealth from independent refiners like his, which must buy the credits, to large oil companies and gas-station chains, which sell them.

Todd Becker, chief executive officer of Green Plains Inc., which produces ethanol, said the rules shouldn't be changed "just to satisfy two or three or four companies that may be feeling some pressure."

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U.S. Nuclear Plant Fails at Auction Despite State Assistance

Posted May 24, 2017, 03:22 P.M. ET

By Jim Polson

Even the promise of state subsidies wasn't enough to help a struggling nuclear power plant in the biggest electricity market emerge a victor in a closely watched auction.

Exelon Corp. said its Quad Cities plant in Illinois didn't clear at the annual auction of capacity rights by PJM Interconnection LLC. It was the first time the grid operator had held a sale since a handful of nuclear reactors in Illinois and New York won subsidies to stay open.

In the run-up to the auction, opponents of subsidies had feared Exelon might undercut rivals in the knowledge that Quad Cities would be a recipient of state aid. With reactors reeling under competition from cheap shale gas and renewables, more states could now face pressure to help out ailing nuclear plants, according to Kit Konolige, a utilities analyst for Bloomberg Intelligence.

"Exelon could make the other argument, that even with the subsidy it wasn't able to clear," Konolige said by phone May 24. "That's how bad its economics were."

At the auction covering the power market that stretches from Chicago to Washington, payments plunged to a four-year low of $76.53 a megawatt-day for the year starting June 2020, PJM said in a release May 23.

"Since Quad Cities didn't clear, it probably had no effect on the auction price," Konolige said. "You can't be definitive, because companies don't disclose their bidding strategies."

Exelon said the plant has not yet been selected to receive zero-emissions credits under the Future Energy Jobs Act, which is designed to promote a clean energy future for Illinois, and is expected to come into force in June.

"Exelon remains fully committed to keeping the Quad Cities plant open, provided that FEJA's Zero Emissions Credit program is implemented as expected and provided that Quad Cities is selected to participate," Joe Dominguez, Exelon's executive vice president of government and regulatory affairs and public policy, said in a statement.

Exelon's Three Mile Island station, scene of the worst accident in the history of U.S. commercial nuclear energy, may not be so lucky. After failing to clear at the past three PJM auctions, the plant is at risk of early retirement. It hasn't made a profit in five years and remains "economically challenged" given the lack of federal or Pennsylvania energy policies that value zero-emissions nuclear power, the company said.

Exelon's other nuclear plants in PJM cleared in the auction. Oyster Creek didn't take part, since it's scheduled to shut in 2019.

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Daily Environment Report for EPA

To: Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
From: Morning Energy
Sent: Fri 6/16/2017 2:05:20 PM
Subject: POLITICO's Morning Energy: Unpacking Pruitt's early days as administrator — DOE defends closing climate office — Carper pushing for quick Svinicki vote

By Anthony Adragna | 06/16/2017 10:00 AM EDT

With help from Anca Gurzu and Alex Guillén

PRUITT'S EARLY SCHEDULES RELEASED: After months of requesting them, EPA released Administrator Scott Pruitt's schedules for his first five weeks in office to E&E News late Thursday. They show a host of previously-known meetings with governors and industry figures, but also detail undisclosed private meetings with senior energy industry VIPs - and virtually no interactions with environmentalists.

Wading into the White House: Before he helped convince President Donald Trump to ditch the Paris climate deal, Pruitt lunched separately with members of the dueling ideological camps inside the White House. On March 13, Pruitt sat down with the president's daughter Ivanka Trump, who ultimately failed to convince her father to stick with the accord. A few days later, he discussed climate change with Stephen Miller, one of the president's more populist conservative advisers.

Congress calls: Sen. Todd Young (R-Ind.) scored an early win when a when a March 8 call to raise the USS Lead Superfund site in East Chicago led to a personal visit by Pruitt on April 19. Indiana's other senator, Democrat Joe Donnelly, also scored a phone call with Pruitt. And Pruitt met once with Sen. Luther Strange (R-Ala.), a longtime collaborator on environmental lawsuits when both were AGs. The topic, according to Pruitt's schedule, was the "Alabama sweep," which ME is guessing is a sports thing.

Industry invites: Pruitt spoke at a dinner gathering of the American Petroleum Institute's executive committee and board of directors - held at the Trump Hotel, across the street from EPA headquarters. Pruitt also discussed regulatory reform and "Chevron's perspective on global oil and gas developments" with Chevron chief John Watson. Steve Pastor, a petroleum executive with BHP Billiton, asked for a meeting to "thank [Pruitt] for leadership."

More industry meetings with: Coal CEO Bob Murray; Andrew Liveris, Dow Chemical; Lynn Good, Duke Energy; Sean Trauschke, Paul Renfrow and George Baker of OGE Energy; National Rural Electric Cooperative Association CEO Jim Matheson; BMW Global Chairman CEO Harald Krüger; A.J. Ferate, vice president of regulatory affairs at Oklahoma Independent Petroleum Association.

Odds and ends: Pruitt on several occasions blocked out time for CIA Director Mike Pompeo, but no other details were included. At Pruitt's request, former Virginia attorney general Ken Cuccinelli stopped by to talk about an undisclosed topic. Cuccinelli is now general counsel for FreedomWorks, the Koch-connected group. Pruitt met in his office on March 22 with Kevin Hern , a Tulsa businessman planning to run for the seat of Rep. Jim Bridenstine, who said he

would limit himself to three terms. Pruitt also met with: German Environment State Secretary Jochen Flasbarth; Environmental Council of the States executive director Alexandra Dunn; Jason Grumet of the Bipartisan Policy Council; James T. Conway and others from Securing America's Future Energy; San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District executive director Seyed Sadredin.

An ear for ethanol: Pruitt's calendar is light on details in terms of what was discussed, with a few exceptions. On several occasions Pruitt discussed the federal biofuels mandate, including a wonky dispute over which companies are responsible for complying with the law. Pruitt has the final call on a petition the Obama administration proposed rejecting that would move the so-called point of obligation from oil refiners to fuel blenders. The point of obligation was a topic of discussion when Pruitt met with Greg Love of Love's Travel Stops, which belongs to a trade association representing truck stop owners that has come out against shifting the obligation. Pruitt also discussed the topic with George Damiris, the CEO of HollyFrontier, an independent refiner that supports the shift. And he discussed the Renewable Fuel Standard with BP America CEO John Minge, whose company is part of a coalition pushing to keep the point of obligation where it is. Pruitt also met separately with National Corn Growers Association CEO Chris Novak and Corn Refiners Association CEO John Bode alongside other agriculture industry representatives, although his calendar did not list the topics they discussed.

Did we miss anyone?: No meetings with environmentalists were listed on Pruitt's calendar, which covered Feb. 21 to March 31. Pruitt's first public meeting with greens was a few weeks later, when he met with members of the Nature Conservancy and Audubon Society.

Meanwhile, more Oklahoma emails: More than 4,000 of newly-released emails from Pruitt's time as Oklahoma attorney general provide further evidence of how closely he coordinated with fossil fuel companies, The Associated Press reports. The records, which contain schedules and lists of speaking engagements, detail dozens of meetings between Pruitt, members of his staff, and executives and lobbyists from the coal, oil and gas industries.

TGIF EVERYONE! I'm your host Anthony Adragna, and Covington & Burling's Bud Earley was first to identify future President Gerald Ford as the first to hit a grand slam in the Congressional Baseball Game. For today: In what city did the First Continental Congress meet back in 1774? Send your tips, energy gossip and comments to aadragna@politico.com, or follow us on Twitter @AnthonyAdragna, @Morning_Energy, and @POLITICOPro.

HOW A STREET IN BROOKLYN IS CHANGING THE ENERGY GRID: The shared economy is flourishing, with companies like Airbnb and Lyft capitalizing on the growing popularity of shared services. Can their success be replicated in the energy industry? In the latest installment of **POLITICO Magazine's "What Works"** series, we look at Brooklyn-based LO3 that devised a micro grid system that uses a phone app and smart meters to enable neighbors with solar panels to strike deals amongst themselves on the amount of electricity they buy from each other and at what price. We also look at the revitalization of Tampa, Florida - a broken down deep water port revitalized after 40 years of public and private investment. Read more: Tampa Revitalization | Brooklyn's Energy Grid | Photo Gallery

CAN I CONSOLIDATE? The Energy Department confirmed that it is shuttering the Office of International Climate and Technology - calling it "one example of many" efforts to "consolidate the many duplicative programs that currently exist" within the agency in light of anticipated budget cuts. The shift is part of a larger realignment toward basic scientific research as opposed to technology deployment and follows a budget request that would eliminate programs like ARPA-E while slashing spending on fossil, nuclear and renewable energy offices.

But DOE disputed the idea that getting rid of the climate office would impede the type of work that it did. "The premise of the New York Times article claiming that the Administration is retreating on its efforts to promote clean energy is entirely false," DOE spokesman Shaylyn Hynes said in a statement, referring to the initial report that the office's 11 employees had been told their positions were being eliminated. Secretary Rick Perry "has a proven record of managing under tight budgets and looks forward to working with whatever resources Congress appropriates." Perry just returned from a trip to China for the annual Clean Energy Ministerial, which was organized with help from the international climate office. DOE said it would continue to do some preparation for future such meetings but would disperse the work among regional offices.

REJECTION OF REVOCATION: The Trump administration appears unlikely to try to rescind a series of national monument designations under the Antiquities Act made by former President Barack Obama and his predecessors. Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke offered good news to supporters of Maine's Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument during a two-day tour by car, foot and canoe of the area when he said federal ownership of the area is "settled" and that he was unlikely to recommend shrinking it, according to multiple reports.

Zinke suggested he might actually go further and ask Congress to designate the area as a national park. And he appeared to reject an idea from Maine Gov. Paul LePage to transfer control of the monument back to the state: "We can look at management schemes, but I'm not a fan of sale or transfer of public lands," he told Maine Public Radio . Zinke's New England comments come after he recommended earlier this week trimming back - but not revoking - the controversial 1.4 million-acre Bears Ears National Monument in Utah, which many in the state's congressional delegation were pushing. It's worth noting Zinke could still change his mind before issuing final recommendations to Trump and that any attempt to alter existing monuments is sure to face legal challenges.

The man and the sea: Zinke's New England swing takes him to Boston today where he'll gather input the Northeast Canyons and Seamounts National Marine Monument off the coast of New York and New England. He hosts a listening session with local fisherman at 11 a.m., some of whom have filed a lawsuit challenging the designation.

CARPER PUSHING FOR SVINICKI VOTE: Top Senate EPW Democrat Tom Carper told ME "I'll do everything I can to make sure we" vote on NRC Chairwoman Kristine Svinicki's renomination before her current term expires at the end of the month. EPW cleared her renomination by voice vote earlier Thursday, though a spokesman for Majority Leader Mitch McConnell declined to comment on vote timing. Svinicki would have to step down, at least temporarily, if the Senate fails to confirm her by June 30.

Wait and see on oversight needs: Carper said he "appreciated" assurances from Chairman John Barrasso that EPA should respond to oversight requests from members of both parties, but said "we need the heartfelt assurances" of the agency. The Delaware Democrat has been frustrated by what he says are inadequate responses to his letters seeking information on agency actions.

THE LEGEND OF CHICAGO: Lawmakers from both parties warned Pruitt on Thursday he'd have to swallow more funding for his agency than requested, but Pruitt also pushed back on the suggestion he planned to close any EPA regional offices. "There is no consideration presently with respect to any regional offices about moving them to one location or another," he told a House Appropriations subcommittee. "I'm not sure where that came from." Asked specifically about Chicago-based EPA Region 5, Pruitt said reports of its impending closure were "pure legend" and "not something that is under discussion presently."

AGENCIES SEES PAPERWORK SLASHED: OMB Director Mick Mulvaney issued a memorandum Thursday eliminating a host of things federal agencies previously had to report to his office. Among those mandates on the chopping block: Reporting governmental costs related to the 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico. "Too often, burdensome tasks have piled up without consideration of whether the requirements collectively make sense," the document notes.

EPA FIGHTS TO KEEP METHANE STAY: EPA asked a federal appeals court to reject environmentalists' request to reinstate key parts of the agency's rule limiting methane emissions from new oil and gas wells. As Pro's Alex Guillén notes, the agency further increased tension this week by proposing a two-year delay of those requirements. "There is no emergency," and the environmental groups cannot meet the requirements to obtain court action, EPA argued in a Thursday court filing. Those green groups must respond by June 20 and look for court action to follow shortly afterwards.

BROOKLYN'S HOTTEST CRAZE: Debra Bruno looks at the rise of microgrids in Brooklyn as part of POLITICO Magazine's What Works series. A novel system uses a phone app and smart meters to enable neighbors to strike deals for how much electricity they want to buy from one another and at what price. And it's powered by the same secure information exchange that makes bitcoin trading possible.

MAIL CALL! SENATORS: BUT, SERIOUSLY, PRUITT: Not holding back, six Senate EPW Democrats wrote Pruitt Thursday raising "serious questions" about whether he can "be trusted to inform Congress" about his activities as EPA administrator after revelations he used a third, previously undisclosed, email account while serving as Oklahoma attorney general. They asked Pruitt to immediately correct the record on his email habits and requested information about his use of secondary email accounts at EPA. The letter, spearheaded by Sheldon Whitehouse, goes on to ask if Pruitt has used "any other email addresses or other forms of electronic communication" for any purpose with entities with business pending before the agency.

NO METHOD TO THE MADNESS? The Manhattan Institute's Mark Mills is supporting a

revival of the U.S. manufacturing industry - a view he says is unpopular in parts of the gig-economy-obsessed tech world - and the biggest drag on the sector is the proliferation of regulations. His recent paper says myriad regulations cost manufacturers an average of $20,000 per employee, but that burden is even higher on the small companies, where the cost reaches $35,000 per employee. The No. 1 offender, Mills told ME, is the EPA. "Environmental regulations have been dominant. They've increased the most, and they cost the most." Much of the problem companies is trying to navigate the web of rules, many of which are in conflict with each other, he said. The argument, Mills says, is not to have no regulations, but to "de-conflict" them, like Germany and Canada do, which would ease the cost of compliance and help the sector.

GREEN GROUP SLAMS DEMOCRATIC AD: Friends of the Earth Action is decidedly not pleased with an ad released earlier this week boosting moderate Democratic Sen. Joe Manchin from a PAC allied with Minority Leader Chuck Schumer . The spot from Majority Forward praises Manchin for his efforts to roll back Obama-era coal regulations, but the Friends of the Earth said it undercuts resistance to Trump's environmental agenda. "As the Trump administration continues its devastating war against public health and the environment, it is troubling to see Democratic leaders normalizing Trump and his extreme agenda," Erich Pica, president of Friends of the Earth Action, said in a statement.

REPORT: TARGETING ENERGY EFFICIENCY MAKES NO SENSE: Public Citizen is out with a report Thursday arguing Trump's efforts to impede energy efficiency efforts make no sense even if he considers climate change a hoax, because the programs save consumers trillions over the course of their lifespans. "The savings from these programs literally approach the scale of Trump's most lavish promises for infrastructure spending," David Arkush, managing director of Public Citizen's climate program, said in a statement.

MOVER, SHAKER: Chris Adamo joins the National Wildlife Federation as senior fellow for conservation innovation; he served as chief of staff for the White House Council on Environmental Quality during the Obama administration between 2015 and 2017. Prior to that, he worked on conservation issues in the Senate for more than a decade and served as staff director for the Senate Agriculture Committee.

IT'S BEEN A TRIP! An 18-stop, 4,825-mile, coast-to-coast road trip sponsored by the American Gas Association ends today in Washington. The event has showcased a variety of vehicles running on compressed natural gas, liquefied natural gas and renewable natural gas. More information here.

QUICK HITS

- The War on Coal States. Slate.

- Dow-DuPont merger gets US antitrust approval. Financial Times.

- Ruling on Dakota Access pipeline surprises oil industry. AP.

- Big Oil needs to spend $350 billion...on wind and solar. CNN Money.

- Group says Georgia nuclear plant costs rise to $29 billion. Reuters.

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Energy and Climate Report

Afternoon Briefing - Your Preview of Today's News

The following news provides a snapshot of what Bloomberg BNA is working on today. Read the full version of all the stories in the final issue, published each night.

Westinghouse Exiting the Nuclear Plant Construction Business

Posted May 23, 2017, 09:20 P.M. ET

By Rebecca Kern

Westinghouse Electric Co. plans to exit the construction side of the nuclear business, following the company's bankruptcy filing, a company executive told Bloomberg BNA.

"Construction is not our forte, and we certainly have decided from a risk perspective, never to do that again," David Howell, Westinghouse's president of the Americas region, said in an interview May 23 on the sidelines of the Nuclear Energy Assembly annual meeting in Scottsdale, Ariz.

Westinghouse is planning for all of its global businesses to focus on engineering and procurement services, and not offer construction services, Howell said.

Westinghouse filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy March 29 in the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of New York, following billions of construction cost overruns associated with the build of two nuclear reactors owned by Southern Co. in Georgia and two owned by SCANA Corp. in South Carolina. Westinghouse took over as engineering-procurement-construction contractor of the nuclear plants after it acquired the U.S. nuclear construction contractor CB&I-Stone & Webster in 2015.

Westinghouse is in the process of receiving an $800 million loan from Apollo Global Management LLC, with approval from the bankruptcy court expected May 24. However, it is barred from using any of the credit for nuclear construction at the plants, Mark Marano, Westinghouse's chief operating officer, told Bloomberg BNA May 23.

Southern Co. has reached an interim agreement until June 3 with Westinghouse to continue construction of the Georgia reactors while the companies finalize and gain approval for a new service pact. Similarly, SCANA Corp. and Santee Cooper, South Carolina's state-owned utility, agreed to an extension of an interim agreement with Westinghouse ensure construction of the reactors through June 26.

Westinghouse expects to file a business plan in bankruptcy court and with a debtor-in-possession financing committee led by Apollo Global Management in July, Howell said. The company expects approval of the plan "some months after," he said.

Westinghouse to Emerge From Bankruptcy Stronger, CEO Says

Posted May 24, 2017, 12:22 P.M. ET

By Rebecca Kern

Westinghouse Electric Co., which has filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy, will emerge "quickly, better, stronger," CEO Jose Gutierrez said in his first public speech since the company's filing in a U.S. bankruptcy court in March.

Westinghouse is working with Southern Co. and SCANA Corp., the owners of the Vogtle and V.C. Summer nuclear plants that are under construction in Georgia and South Carolina, respectively, "to find a long-term solution to complete those reactors," Gutierrez said May 24 at the Nuclear Energy Assembly conference in Scottsdale, Ariz.

"We hope that those reactors get built. We hope they do a better job than we did," Gutierrez said.

Westinghouse filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy March 29 in the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of New York, after experiencing billions of dollars of construction cost overruns associated with the building of the four AP1000 nuclear reactors in Georgia and South Carolina. Westinghouse took over as engineering-procurement-construction contractor of the nuclear plants after it acquired the U.S. nuclear construction contractor CB&I Stone & Webster Inc. in 2015.

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World Bank Sees Batteries as`Next Frontier' of Climate Spending

Posted May 24, 2017, 10:14 A.M. ET

By Jessica Shankleman

The World Bank expects stricter rules for clean-energy auctions to spur investment in batteries and other kinds of energy storage, making the industry segment the "next frontier" of climate finance.

Countries including India and Morocco are tightening parameters on renewable power developers to ensure wind and solar farms provide more predictable flows of electricity. That means the intermittent generators increasingly need to invest in energy storage, John Roome, senior director of climate change for the World Bank, said in an interview in London.

The Washington-based development bank sees energy storage as a key technology for its efforts to scale up finance targeted for environmental projects as it moves away from backing mainstream renewable technologies such as solar and wind that are attracting investment on their own, he said.

The World Bank has said its climate financing could increase to as much as $29 billion a year by 2020, as part of a pledge to raise the share of spending on climate change mitigation and adaptation by one third.

Global battery-making capacity is set to more than double by 2021, reaching 278 gigawatt-hours, up from about 103 gigawatt-hours now, according to Bloomberg New Energy Finance.

Yet the higher costs for batteries now means bids for renewable projects with storage attached will be more expensive, said Roome. The World Bank would work with companies to offer transitional finance to help "blend down" the costs.

The government of Jordan is also considering requiring storage in its upcoming renewable energy auction, said Alzbeta Klein, director for climate business at the bank's International Finance Corp. The battery storage market is still in early development stages, with richer countries such as the U.S. and South Korea, leading the market, she said.

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Pope Lends Weight to G-7 Push to Bind Trump to Climate Deal

Posted May 24, 2017, 7:30 A.M. ET

By Margaret Talev and Lorenzo Totaro

Pope Francis joined an international chorus urging Donald Trump to meet U.S. commitments on climate change in talks at the Vatican May 24.

Francis gave the U.S. president a copy of his 2015 encyclical calling for urgent, drastic cuts in fossil-fuel emissions after a half-hour meeting in his private study.

Francis's choice of gift suggests he is adding his voice to those who are urging Trump not to renege on the Paris accord, which is the cornerstone of global efforts to limit climate change. The Vatican said in a statement that the talks focused on international affairs and the promotion of peace, with particular emphasis on health care, education and immigration.

"Thank you, thank you," Trump told Francis as they shook hands after the meeting. "I won't forget what you said." Trump has said climate change might be a hoax perpetrated by the Chinese.

For his part, Trump gave Francis a special edition of the works of U.S. civil rights leader Martin Luther King.

Trump met with Italian Prime Minister Paolo Gentiloni later on May 24 before he travels to Brussels for a NATO meeting. He'll be back in Italy again on May 26 for talks with Group of Seven leaders in Taormina, Sicily. The world's biggest developed economies are expecting Trump to say whether he'll keep the U.S. in the Paris climate accord during the summit, Germany's environment minister Barbara Hendricks, said May 22.

French President Emmanuel Macron will push Trump over climate during the NATO meeting as part of a coordinated European effort to sway the president, a French government official said May 24, adding that he had expected the pope and Gentiloni also to raise the issue. The official said that the

questions over what the U.S. will decide have led to unprecedented uncertainty over what the G-7 will be able to say in its final communique.

Members of the Trump administration have been deadlocked over whether the U.S. should uphold the pact, brokered by nearly 200 nations in 2015. Leaders from Germany, China and other nations have pushed for America to stay.

Pressure has also come from business groups, including 280 investors representing more than $17 trillion in assets who released a statement May 22 saying climate change must be an "urgent priority" for all G-20 nations. Executives have warned that Trump would put U.S. companies at a disadvantage if he pulled out of the pact.

As the richest nation and the second-largest polluter, U.S. efforts are central to keeping climate change from hitting an irreversible tipping point, unleashing catastrophic floods, droughts and storms, according to researchers. The U.S. has pledged to reduce its emissions by at least 26 percent from 2005 levels under the world's broadest ever environmental agreement.

The meeting at the Vatican was the first between two leaders who have starkly differing views on a range of issues and was arranged at Trump's request. Beyond their disagreements on the environment, Francis wants the world's doors swung open to refugees, while Trump wants fewer of them in America. Income inequality is a serious concern for the pope -- the billionaire president plans to rewrite the U.S. tax code to make the wealthy even richer.

For the president, it's an encounter that may confer some legitimacy as he grapples with a political crisis back home. For Francis, it's a chance to influence a leader who, for all his stumbles, remains the most powerful person in the world.

"There's a whole range of issues on which the pope and Trump differ, but the point of their meeting isn't to forge agreement on them or to change each other's minds," papal biographer Austen Ivereigh said in a telephone interview. "The point is to establish a bond of trust, which they can both call on in the future to further their agendas."

Symbol of Peace

Francis arrived at the courtyard of the Apostolic Palace in a Ford Focus and entered the building through a side entrance. Ten minutes later, the president's motorcade was greeted by Swiss Guards who stood to attention with their halberds and ostrich-plumed helmets. The pope welcomed Trump upstairs in the Sala del Tronetto before the two leaders retired to his private study for a half-hour conversation.

"It was an honor to be with the pope," Trump told reporters later in the morning. "We had a fantastic meeting," he added, without addressing a shouted question on whether they discussed climate change.

As well as the text on environmental protection, which Francis said he's sent to all Roman Catholics, the pope also gave Trump books on family and the joy of the gospel.

"I'll be reading them," the president told him.

He also gave Trump a medal made by a Roman artist depicting an olive. The pope told Trump the olive is a symbol of peace.

"That's so beautiful," the president said. "We can use peace."

--With assistance from John Follain, Alessandra Migliaccio and Helene Fouquet.

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U.S. Government Launches Probe into Cheap Imported Solar Cells

Posted May 24, 2017, 10:00 A.M. ET

By Joe Ryan

The U.S. government opened an investigation into whether American solar-panel manufacturers are being hobbled by cheap imports, marking the first step in a probe that may lead to import tariffs on photovoltaic components.

The U.S. International Trade Commission is instituting the probe at the request of Suniva Inc., a bankrupt Georgia-based manufacturer that said it was unable to compete with low-cost solar cells made predominately in China. Officials will conclude by Sept. 22 whether the company had suffered damages, the ITC said in a May 23 notice.

"We are pleased that the Commission has taken this next step and initiated the investigation of this case," Matt Card, a Suniva executive, said in a statement.

Suniva requested import duties of 40 cents per watt for solar cells produced outside the U.S. and a floor price of 78 cents per watt for panels. The International Trade Commission will do the initial analysis of the complaint; the final decision on whether to back Suniva rests with President Donald Trump.

The case, filed by Suniva in April, has rattled the solar industry. The duties Suniva is requesting are forecast to double the price of panels and may imperil 260,000 jobs, according the Solar Energy Industries Association.

Suniva's majority owner, Shunfeng International Clean Energy Ltd. of China, has also objected, saying the move is "not in the best interests" of clean energy markets.

"The International Trade Commission's decision to consider Suniva's petition for a lifeline could be bad news for hundreds of thousands of American workers in the solar industry and may jeopardize billions of dollars in investment in communities across the country," SEIA chief executive Abigail Ross Hopper said in a statement. Tariffs and floor prices are "a blunt instrument that would cripple one of the brightest spots in America's economy."

Solar installations in the U.S. have soared in recent years, largely because of low-cost panels made in China. Suniva's largest creditor, SQN Capital Management, required the manufacturer file the trade case as a condition of its Chapter 11 bankruptcy financing.

The ITC said it would take longer than normal to investigate the case, saying it was "extraordinarily complicated." The agency plans to send a report with its recommendations to the president by Nov. 13.

--With assistance from Jennifer A. Dlouhy.

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Energy and Climate Report

To: Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
From: CEO Report
Sent: Mon 6/5/2017 11:02:32 AM
Subject: CEO Report: Funding season — Debt limit talks — Focus on the Fed — Mnuchin's review

View online version

06/05/2017 07:00 AM EDT

By ALEX WEPRIN (aweprin@politico.com; @alexweprin)

Funding season: June is always a furiously busy time for work on funding the federal government. And that process is sure to be particular disorderly this month as Congress gets back to work after the Memorial Day recess. For one thing, Republican leaders have yet to pass a budget resolution, forcing them to trudge blindly through spending season without the guiding light of overall spending levels, Pro Budget and Appropriations editor Jennifer Scholtes notes. Congress is supposed to pass its own budget by April 15 each year, but Republican leaders aren't expected to release that document for several weeks. So lawmakers are likely to be stuck in this limbo for most of the month — if not longer.

Despite that self-imposed setback, spending committee leaders will call up Trump administration officials this month to testify on funding priorities for their agencies and will continue meeting behind closed doors for some informal budget-writing sessions.

Beyond the basic challenge of trying to pen funding levels without knowing overall budget limits, GOP leaders are already starting to worry about their ability to ultimately pass the 12 federal spending bills before government funding runs out on Sept. 30. If they learned anything from the last go-round this spring, it's that they will be hard-pressed to get enough Democratic support without scrapping some of President Donald Trump's biggest priorities — like border wall funding. And Trump has already threatened to hold strong in the next game of political chicken, tweeting last month that "our country needs a good 'shutdown' in September to fix mess!"

Debt-limit talks: While lawmakers thought they had until late September or early October to act on the debt limit, Trump administration officials now says that deadline will probably need to be moved up by a few weeks, Jennifer reports. And since Congress is out of session in August, leaders are scrambling to come up with a deal that could pass before the government defaults on its debt. A compromise will be hard to come by, though, since both parties are internally divided over whether to go for a "clean increase" in the debt ceiling or whether to throw in spending cuts and boosts.

FINANCIAL SERVICES

Focus on the Fed: This will be a pivotal month for the Federal Reserve, with the central bank expected to push ahead with its ambitious agenda. At its June 13-14 meetings, the Fed's top policymaking body is likely to raise its main borrowing rate once again as part of its plan to end the economic stimulus that it began during the financial crisis. The Fed will telegraph its intentions going forward, keeping an eye on economic data that's showing possible signs of slowing inflation, which could undercut plans for future rate hikes. The central bank has also signaled it will clarify how it plans to unwind its massive $4.5 trillion balance sheet, a delicate operation since it risks rattling the financial markets.

Mnuchin's review: The Treasury Department will in the coming days release the first in a series of eagerly awaited reports on how financial regulations can be overhauled, an initial step in fulfilling a campaign promise by Trump. Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin has indicated that the first report will include recommendations on the Volcker rule, a hotly contested measure that prevents banks from engaging in proprietary trading, and community banking.

Stress tests: At the end of the month, the Fed will announce the results of its annual stress tests on the biggest U.S. banks, which could affect dividend payments and stock buybacks planned by the lenders. For the first time this year, none of the banks with less than $250 billion in assets will be subject to the portion of the tests that measures the firms' risk-management procedures, the first in what is likely to be a move to ease the examinations.

Showdown on Dodd-Frank repeal: One of the House's first tasks when it returns from the Memorial Day recess will be voting on the Financial CHOICE Act, which would repeal and replace banking regulations from the Dodd-Frank law. House Financial Services Chairman Jeb Hensarling has agreed to remove a section of the bill that was the most controversial among Republicans — a repeal of the debit card swipe fee cap known as the Durbin Amendment. The Senate Banking Committee will take a step toward drafting its own legislation with hearings focused on smaller lenders.

Housing reform: Look for mortgage reform to bubble up in June. The Senate is expected to confirm Pam Patenaude as deputy secretary of HUD after her June 6 confirmation hearing. And the National Association of Home Builders will have its annual member fly-ins to gin up support for overhauling Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac. — *Mark McQuillan*

TAX

Clock's ticking: If the White House and Republican leaders in Congress want to keep their promise of enacting tax reform before the end of the year, they'll have to pick up the pace this month. Both sides say they are hammering out details behind closed doors, while House Republican leaders have kept up their public sales job, saying the

stars are aligned for a once-in-a-generation overhaul of the tax code. But there are distractions galore. First there is that debt limit increase, which is never an easy lift. And the Senate is still working on an Obamacare repeal-and-replace plan. Then there's that month-long recess looming in August. National Economic Council Director Gary Cohn said that the White House will likely wait to release its detailed tax plan until after the recess.

If the Senate's Obamacare bill lands this month, there will be plenty of tax implications. The House's plan eliminated taxes used to fund the Affordable Care Act, notably the 3.8 percent investment tax on high-income earners. It would also phase out a 0.9 percent Medicare surcharge those earners pay. But Republican senators don't seem wedded to getting rid of those levies. "That's hard to say right now. We just have to see," Senate Finance Chairman Orrin Hatch said last month. "It's going to be negotiated." The Senate may also go its own way on tax credits designed to make health insurance more affordable for lower-income Americans. The House bill pegged the tax credits to age. But senators want to follow Obamacare's model of basing premium assistance on income.

Staffing up: The Senate could also take up the nomination of David Kautter to be the Treasury Department's assistant secretary for tax policy, depending on how fast the vetting goes. It's a key position at Treasury, especially with tax reform in the works. If Kautter is confirmed — and, so far, there's no reason to think he won't be — it could also free the logjam on deputy assistant secretary vacancies in Treasury's tax office. Kautter, who was nominated by Trump last month, has a long tax policy resume. He's been working most recently as partner-in-charge of the Washington National Tax practice for the consulting firm RSM US LLP. He's also been an instructor at American University, following more than three decades at Ernst and Young. Kautter also worked on Capitol Hill as tax legislative counsel for former Sen. John Danforth (R-Mo.). — *Toby Eckert*

CYBERSECURITY

It's here, now what: Trump in May finally signed his long-awaited cybersecurity executive order, which launched sweeping reviews of the federal government's digital vulnerabilities and directs agencies to adopt specific security practices. Now agencies are getting down to work. In the next month, officials will be working toward a July 14 deadline to submit an "action plan" detailing how they will implement the desired security practices, which are outlined in a cybersecurity framework developed by the technical standards agency NIST. By July 14, agencies will also have to submit their quarterly cybersecurity report, as required by the Federal Information Security Modernization Act, or FISMA. The Office of Management and Budget and the Department of Homeland Security will then create a government-wide analysis for Trump based on those reports.

No more leaky pipes: The White House and Congress are also taking action to upgrade the government's aging computer networks, which cost the government billions to maintain. Jared Kushner's Office of American Innovation will hold a meeting on June 19 with a panoply of tech-sector executives. The group will discuss IT modernization ideas. And in Congress, the White House is backing a House-passed bill that would earmark hundreds of millions of dollars for government network improvements. Currently, though, the Senate has no plans to take up the bill, which has significant bipartisan backing. Observers say the measure needs a vocal upper chamber champion to break through the congressional clutter.

Cyber to get $$: The Senate and House versions of the annual defense policy bill are expected to drop this month, and both will include a major focus on expanding the country's cyber war-fighting capabilities. Lawmakers want to use the bill to make cybersecurity a more desirable career path within the military. They fear that in the rush to fill out U.S. Cyber Command's Cyber Mission Force by the 2018 fiscal year, the military has failed to take steps to keep cyber service members in digitally focused fields.

Trump has also signaled his preference for boosting cyber spending within the Pentagon and across much of the government. His full budget request seeks $647 million for U.S. Cyber Command, a nearly 16 percent increase over the most recent fiscal year, according to Cyber Command head Adm. Michael Rogers. It also requests a bump for the DHS office that works with companies to detect and mitigate digital assaults and calls for an increase in money for the FBI to fight cybercrime. In June, the Senate will hold a hearing on the DHS budget request, and likely will schedule one on the Justice Department's funding asks as well. — *Cory Bennett*

AGRICULTURE

Getting the band together: The first meeting of the White House Interagency Task Force on Agriculture and Rural Prosperity is expected in the next few weeks, and launching its efforts will likely be a top concern for Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue this month. Trump tapped Perdue to lead the group, which he authorized via an executive order signed on the Agriculture secretary's first day in office, in late April. The panel will bring together Cabinet members and other officials; it must report to Trump in October on regulations and other policies that are hampering economic growth for farmers and for rural America.

Covering Perdue's flanks: The Agriculture secretary and the White House are also likely this month to announce picks for key sub-cabinet-level positions — officials who will be essential to Perdue's ability to drive his agenda. The secretary is said to have settled on American Soybean Association CEO Stephen Censky for deputy secretary and is eyeing Iowa Agriculture Secretary Bill Northey and Indiana Agriculture Director Ted McKinney for two important undersecretary positions that will be created as part of

the secretary's USDA reorganization.

Farm bill always on the mind: The House Agriculture Committee is moving ahead with its preparatory work for the next farm bill, due next year. The committee has two hearings scheduled for Congress' return this week: On Wednesday the full panel will review international food aid programs, and the next day its nutrition subcommittee will look at modernizing the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, which Trump's budget proposal targeted for major cuts. — *Jenny Hopkinson*

DEFENSE

A packed defense calendar: Congress returns from recess with a lengthy defense to-do list.

The House and Senate Armed Services Committees are expected to begin moving their versions of the annual National Defense Authorization Act in late June. But with both chambers facing tight legislative schedules, lawmakers will be hard pressed to approve their bills and for a joint-House-Senate conference committee to hammer out the differences before the August recess.

Similarly, appropriators in the House and Senate are expected to begin work on their separate defense spending measures, but are unlikely to agree on final legislation before the summer break.

Still no spending topline: One key hurdle both authorizers and appropriators face is the overall level of national defense spending.

Trump has proposed $603 billion for the new 2018 fiscal year, beginning Oct. 1, including the base Pentagon budget and national security programs under the Energy Department. But defense hawks on Capitol Hill, including House and Senate Armed Services Chairmen Rep. Mac Thornberry (R-Texas) and Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.), have criticized that level as insufficient to sustain a major military buildup and instead have proposed $640 billion.

House Defense Appropriations Subcommittee Chairwoman Kay Granger (R-Texas), however, calls the $640 billion topline "a high bar."

And the slow pace for Pentagon nominees drags on: The Senate has confirmed a handful of senior defense nominees, but the ranks of Senate-confirmed officials at the Pentagon remain thin.

Boeing executive Patrick Shanahan was announced as deputy defense secretary in March, but his nomination still hasn't been formally sent to the Senate. And two of the military services are still without civilian secretaries. Only Air Force Secretary Heather

Wilson has been confirmed. Trump's second pick for Army secretary, Tennessee state Sen. Mark Green, has withdrawn. And the president on Friday tapped financier Richard Spencer to be Navy secretary. — *Connor O'Brien*

EDUCATION

DeVos sells Trump budget priorities: Education Secretary Betsy DeVos continues her effort to sell the administration's proposed budget, which includes a 13-percent cut to education spending while making an unprecedented investment in school choice, including expanding charter schools and publicly funded private school options. DeVos is scheduled to testify Tuesday before a Senate appropriations subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and related agencies.

A decision on defense to repayment: The Obama administration proposed new standards for debt relief when students are defrauded by their college, and those "borrower defense to repayment rules" are slated to take effect on July 1 — but they could be delayed or scrapped this month. DeVos told lawmakers last month that the rules are "something that we are studying carefully and looking at and we will have something further to say on that within the next few weeks."

Charter schools gathering: The National Alliance for Public Charter Schools is having its annual summit in D.C. this month, which is sure to attract a lot of Hill folk and possibly administration officials. Netflix CEO Reed Hastings is set to deliver a keynote address. — *Ben Wermund*

ENERGY

Adieu, or Au Revoir? Trump officially announced he would start the process to officially pull the United States out of the Paris climate change agreement, but he left open an invitation to negotiate a replacement to "see if we can make a deal that's fair." Angry European leaders have rejected reopening the discussions among the 195 nations that signed the deal, and greens are skeptical the offer is real, since Trump easily could have reduced the U.S. commitment under the deal rather than seeking to leave it. But whether there will be any back-channel discussions or other efforts to alter the White House's decision remains to be seen. The withdrawal process is long and won't be completed until November 2020 — shortly after the next presidential election.

Energy nominees primed for action: Trump's picks for the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and the departments of Energy and Interior are expected to get the endorsement of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee shortly after lawmakers get back to Washington this week. FERC for months has had a lack of quorum, preventing it from green-lighting major natural gas projects or finalizing new

electricity policies. Expect Senate Majority Mitch McConnell to move Neil Chatterjee's and Rob Powelson's nominations as FERC commissioners to the floor quickly so the agency can deal with its backlog. Sen. Lisa Murkowski also said her committee would swiftly vote on DOE and DOI deputy nominees Dan Brouillette and David Bernhardt. However, the Senate is still waiting for the Trump administration to send a trio of nominees for the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. That agency's chairwoman, Kristine Svinicki, sees her term expire June 30. — *Matt Daily and Darius Dixon*

HEALTH CARE

Pharma waits on the Supreme Court: The justices are expected to issue rulings this month in a pair of cases the pharmaceutical industry is closely watching. One case, *Amgen v. Sandoz*, will help settle a long-running dispute on how quickly drug makers could bring to market cheaper copycat versions of expensive biologics. The second case, *Bristol Myers Squibb v. Superior Court of California*, could limit where patients sue drug makers for harm caused by their products.

Health insurers face key Obamacare deadline: Insurers worried about the GOP's Obamacare replacement plan have until June 21 to file proposed 2018 rates with the federal government. Some major and regional insurers, citing major uncertainty about the repeal effort, have already announced their withdrawal from the individual insurance market in 2018. Other insurers are seeking higher rate hikes to gird themselves against potential chaos in the Obamacare marketplaces. Meanwhile, insurers are still pleading with the Trump administration and Congress to save a key Obamacare subsidy that Trump has repeatedly threatened to scrap. — *Jason Millman*

EMPLOYMENT & IMMIGRATION

Labor Secretary Alexander Acosta has until the end of June to inform an appeals court whether he will defend the Obama administration's overtime rule. The regulation, issued last year, doubled (to $47,476) the salary threshold under which virtually all workers are guaranteed time-and-a-half pay if they work more than 40 hours in a given week. Originally set to take effect in December, the rule was blocked in late November by a preliminary injunction from a district court judge in Texas. The Obama administration immediately appealed that decision, raising the question of whether the Trump administration would continue the appeal. DOL, which lacked a new Labor secretary until April 27, twice requested additional time to file a reply brief, most recently in April. The new deadline is June 30.

It seems unlikely that Trump favors keeping the overtime rule, given his sweeping use of the Congressional Review Act to veto no fewer than 14 regulations issued late in the Obama administration. And Trump's on record saying he'd like to scale the rule back for

small businesses. Acosta also seems not to favor the rule. At his confirmation hearing, he questioned DOL's authority to raise the salary threshold to as high as $47,476, echoing language in the November injunction. The likeliest course is that Acosta will drop the legal challenge, then start fashioning a new overtime rule that raises the threshold closer to $33,000, a dollar figure he cited at the confirmation hearing as a truer inflation adjustment than $46,476. It all depends , of course, where the starting point lies. Implementation of such a rule would likely be years off. — *Marianne Levine*

TECHNOLOGY

Buckle up: Expect a bumpy ride in the FCC's seemingly never-ending net neutrality debate. Chairman Ajit Pai has proposed rolling back the agency's Open Internet order from the Obama administration, kicking off a lengthy public comment period. The number of comments in the proceeding has surged — to roughly 3 million, at last count — due in part to a fiery pro-net neutrality segment from HBO host John Oliver.

About those comments: The flood of comments has also generated allegations of foul play. Some reports indicate bots have been flooding the FCC's comment site with anti-net neutrality comments, while the FCC says the historically creaky site has been subject to a distributed denial-of-service attack. Net neutrality activists have expressed skepticism about that claim and asked the FCC to provide proof, and a group of Democratic senators has asked the FBI to brief them on the alleged cyberattack. The prolonged period of public comment is giving both sides in the debate — big internet service providers and conservative groups on the one hand, and digital activists, Democrats and some tech companies on the other — a chance to marshal their arguments and lobbying campaigns. So expect the issue to inflame passions for months, with the FCC expected to vote on the final order sometime in the fall. — *Eric Engleman*

TRADE

Sugar sanctions loom: Today is the day for Mexico to reach a new agreement with the United States if it wants to keep U.S. tariffs on sugar imports suspended. If no deal can be reached, Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross has vowed to impose the duties, which had been set at up to 80 percent. Late Friday, the head of Mexico's sugar industry said that there was a "good chance" the two countries would come to a deal today. Such retaliation, if it comes to fruition, would set a negative tone with Mexico ahead of what is expected to be a contentious renegotiation of NAFTA.

And speaking of NAFTA: Public comments on NAFTA's negotiating objectives are due by June 12 and the U.S. Trade Representative's office will hold a June 27 public hearing on the upcoming trade talks.

Sizing up the deficit: The Commerce Department and the USTR office have until June 30 to release an analysis on the trade deficit. Trump set that deadline in a March 31 executive order and Ross has said the department is working to finish the report earlier than the scheduled completion date.

Import inquiries: The Commerce Department will hold a June 22 public hearing on its investigation into whether aluminum imports are a threat to national security. Public comments on that case are due June 29, and Commerce has said it will conclude that inquiry and a similar one on steel imports by the end of the month.

Oh, Canada: The nation will get hit with a U.S. trade action as the Commerce Department is expected to issue preliminary anti-dumping duties on June 23 on U.S. imports of lumber from Canada. The department set preliminary countervailing duties in that case in April. — *Adam Behsudi*

TRANSPORTATION

Another kind of dual tracking: If the anticipated timelines hold, this should be a consequential month in transportation as the administration and Congress ramp up their efforts on both an infrastructure package and a bill to reauthorize the FAA.

FAA: The White house is expected to propose today a new nonprofit, non-governmental entity to control the nation's air traffic control system, hewing to a non-governmental structure that will mean lower fees than "the patchwork combination of aviation taxes paid today," according to a document of principles obtained by POLITICO. Meanwhile the House is expected to roll out its version of an FAA reauthorization as soon as this month. The House Transportation Committee has held hearings and stakeholder meetings. And although members and aides will likely be haggling over details for some time, a plan could be rolled out quickly, especially with the shot in the arm it's gotten from the White House. Committee Chairman Bill Shuster (R-Pa.) is hoping to sit down and talk about it with Trump this week.

Infrastructure: The White House fiscal 2018 budget request contained some broad-brush goals for Trump's big infrastructure plan, but some were left wondering if that was what DOT Secretary Elaine Chao has been promising since she assumed her post. POLITICO has learned that the White House is anticipating releasing even more details this month. Stay tuned. — *Kathryn A. Wolfe*

DATAPOINT

Consumer confidence continues its retreat from March high: New data from the

Conference Board show consumer confidence fell 1.5 points to 117.9 in May, continuing a slight decline from a 16-year high in March. The survey reflects consumer perceptions and outlook on income levels, job availability and business conditions. The survey shows fewer consumers believe business conditions will improve and fewer consumers are optimistic about job availability over the next six months. Both younger and higher-income consumers are more optimistic in outlook than both older and lower-income consumers.

View the full graphic here and more from DataPoint on Pro.

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Subject: POLITICO's Morning Score: GOP nervous as Ossoff, Handel race toward Georgia finish line — Congressional Leadership Fund launches final mailers — Hogan, Reynolds announce campaign managers

By Scott Bland | 06/16/2017 10:00 AM EDT

With Daniel Strauss and Kevin Robillard

The following newsletter is an abridged version of Campaign Pro's Morning Score. For an earlier morning read on exponentially more races - and for a more comprehensive aggregation of the day's most important campaign news - sign up for Campaign Pro today. (http://www.politicopro.com/proinfo)

GEORGIA PREVIEW - "Ossoff, Handel scrap for Georgia special election win," by Campaign Pro's Elena Schneider: "The Georgia special election between Republican Karen Handel and Democrat Jon Ossoff could come down to just a few thousand votes on Tuesday, after a six-month campaign that has attracted outsized national attention as a key early test for President Donald Trump's party. Trump, Vice President Mike Pence and House Speaker Paul Ryan have all trekked to Georgia and the campaigns and outside groups have spent a record $50 million in the last six months, building the stakes and the suspense to unprecedented levels in a House district that had always been solidly Republican - until Trump finished barely ahead of Hillary Clinton there in the 2016 presidential election. 'The whole country is watching and the whole country is waiting with bated breath to see what we're going to say in Georgia,' Ossoff told volunteers at an event last weekend. ... 'Symbolically, the stakes are as high as they can be,' said Chip Lake, a Republican consultant in the state. 'We didn't need a competitive special election to know that we're going to be on defense in 2018, but it does confirm what we already know - we have our work cut out for us if we don't want to lose the House.'" **Full story.**

- **"GOP sirens blaze over Georgia special election," by POLITICO's Alex Isenstadt:** "The GOP is bracing for the prospect of a loss in Tuesday's Georgia's special election that could have far-reaching implications for President Donald Trump and his party's fortunes in 2018. ... While no one is willing to publicly write off Handel's chances just yet - Republicans stress that she remains competitive and point to robust GOP early voting figures - several private surveys taken over the last few weeks show Republican nominee Karen Handel trending downward, with one private party poll showing 30-year-old Democrat Jon Ossoff opening up a more than five-point lead in the Republican-oriented, suburban Atlanta seat. ... On Capitol Hill, where GOP leaders huddled Tuesday with rank-and-file House lawmakers on the second floor of the Capitol Hill Club for a conversation about the Georgia race and the 2018 political environment, National Republican Congressional Committee Chairman Steve Stivers outlined for the group why the party had spent so heavily in the special election, explaining that the outcome would have an outsize role in shaping the midterm election narrative. To date, the NRCC has spent over $6 million boosting Handel." **Full story.**

- **NEW THIS A.M. - Congressional Leadership Fund sends final mailers:** The final salvo in

the GOP super PAC's $7 million outside-spending campaign in Georgia - the most any PAC has ever spent on a single House race - is a mail program targeting 100,000 households and linking Ossoff to "Nancy Pelosi and Hollywood liberals including Rosie O'Donnell, Jane Fonda and Kathy Griffin," per a release from CLF. **See an example mailer here.**

- Handel has gotten a slew of late donations from the DeVos family, per a Thursday FEC filing.

- "Georgia 6th race takes tense turn after Scalise shooting," by the Atlanta Journal Constitution's Greg Bluestein: "The race for Georgia's 6th Congressional District took a tense turn Thursday as police cordoned off Republican Karen Handel's street after several suspicious packages containing white substances were found, police said. ... In a statement released by her campaign, Handel said that 'the packages contained threatening letters and a suspicious substance.' ... Democrat Jon Ossoff's campaign reported Thursday that it had received several threats and had responded by hiring a security detail." **Full story.**

- "Former Georgia Rep. Tom Price will appear in his first public campaign rally of Georgia's 6th District race to urge Republicans to get behind Karen Handel," the AJC's Bluestein also reported. "And he'll be joined at the Saturday event by fellow Cabinet member Sonny Perdue in what's billed as a final get-out-the-vote push." **Full story.**

Days until the 2017 election: 144.

Days until the 2018 election: 508.

Thanks for joining us. You can email tips to the Campaign Pro team at sbland@politico.com, eschneider@politico.com, krobillard@politico.com and dstrauss@politico.com.

You can also follow us on Twitter: @politicoscott, @ec_schneider, @politicokevin and @danielstrauss4.

STAFFING UP - "Hogan announces top staffers for re-election campaign," by the Baltimore Sun's Erin Cox: "Republican Gov. Larry Hogan announced the top staff for his re-election bid Wednesday ... Hogan's campaign manager is Ryan Reynolds. He comes from the Washington polling firm WPA Intelligence, which has worked with Hogan. The governor's campaign also hired general consultant Jim Barnett, who has worked for several Northeastern Republicans campaigning in states that tend to vote for Democrats." **Full story.**

- Republican Iowa Gov. Kim Reynolds announced Phil Valenziano as her 2018 campaign manager, Angie Hughes as finance director, and Matt Leopold as political director, the Cedar Rapids Gazette reports. Valenziano worked for Chris Christie and Hughes for Carly Fiorina in the 2016 presidential race. **Full story.**

GUESS WHO'S BACK - "Canova announces rematch against Wasserman Schultz," by the Miami Herald's Amy Sherman: "Tim Canova announced he will seek a [Democratic primary] rematch against U.S. Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz after decisively losing to her August ... In

2016, Canova tapped into Bernie Sanders' small donors and anger at the political establishment to raise about $3.8 million in the race for South Florida's 23rd congressional district. A Nova Southeastern University law professor, Canova ran to the left of Wasserman Schultz by bashing her for taking money from corporate donors and big Sugar. ... Mike Nellis, who headed up Canova's online fundraising through Revolution Messaging in 2016, said there isn't the same widespread anger about Wasserman Schultz now. ... Nellis said Canova also hurt his credibility by spreading conspiracy theories about the murder of DNC staffer Seth Rich." **Full story.**

CANDIDATE WATCH - "The coming $100 million Indiana U.S. Senate race," by Brian Howey in the Herald Bulletin: "With the Senate balance in the 2018 mid-terms potentially hanging on U.S. Sen. Donnelly's reelection, Hoosiers are probably looking at a $100 million race. U.S. Reps. Luke Messer and Todd Rokita are expected to post around $2 million when the second quarter FEC reports are filed next month. ... [GOP] State Rep. Mike Braun of Jasper and Attorney General Curtis Hill are also mulling runs. 'I've heard comments and I've also been approached by people,' Hill told me. 'I think people are looking for bold, fresh leadership in all areas of government, including the United States Senate.'" **Full story.**

POLL POSITION - Cuomo leads all comers in 2018 matchups, especially Trump Jr.: New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo takes between 57 and 62 percent in the latest NBC4/Marist poll - with his largest vote share coming in a hypothetical matchup with Donald Trump Jr. Fifty-one percent of voters say they do not want him to run for president in 2020, while 45 percent say the same about Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand. **See the poll here.**

FOLLOWING THE MONEY - "Gov. Eric Greitens pans call for investigation into charity donor list," by the Kansas City Star's Jason Hancock: "Greitens and the Missouri Republican Party are dismissing calls by a bipartisan group of senators for an investigation into the governor's use of a donor list from his former charity to raise money for his 2016 campaign. ... In late April, Greitens admitted that his campaign had acquired the donor list of The Mission Continues, a veterans charity he founded in 2007. The charity is adamant that it did not - and would not - give its donor list to any outside entity, especially a political campaign. Doing so would violate a federal prohibition on charities engaging in political activity. That leaves the possibility that the list was taken from the charity without permission, which attorneys interviewed by The Star say would be a crime." **Full story.**

CODA - QUOTE OF THE DAY: "I can confirm that the Vice President has retained Richard Cullen of McGuireWoods to assist him in responding to inquiries by the special counsel. The Vice President is focused entirely on his duties and promoting the President's agenda and looks forward to a swift conclusion of this matter." - Jarrod Agen, spokesman to Vice President Mike Pence, via POLITICO.

To view online:
http://www.politico.com/tipsheets/morning-score/2017/06/16/gop-nervous-as-ossoff-handel-race-toward-georgia-finish-line-220877

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Sent: Mon 6/5/2017 10:52:50 AM
Subject: POLITICO Playbook, presented by Samsung: TWO SCOOPS: The hottest ticket in town, and Trump's Tuesday night HILL dinner -- OVERHEARD at Trump National ... -- JOSH DAWSEY and BEN WHITE on Reince's staying power -- AP: Time running out for GOP accomplishments

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Today's PLAYBOOK presented by Samsung
06/05/2017 06:50 AM EDT

By ANNA PALMER (anna@politico.com; @apalmerdc) and JAKE SHERMAN (sherman@politico.com; @JakeSherman) with DANIEL LIPPMAN (daniel@politico.com; @dlippman)

Driving the Day

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STATEMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES -- at 6:25 a.m.: "People, the lawyers and the courts can call it whatever they want, but I am calling it what we need and what it is, a TRAVEL BAN!" ... **at 6:29 a.m.:** "The Justice Dept. should have stayed with the original Travel Ban, not the watered down, politically correct version they submitted to S.C." ... **at 6:37 a.m.:** "The Justice Dept. should ask for an expedited hearing of the watered down Travel Ban before the Supreme Court - & seek much tougher version!" ... **at 6:44 a.m.:** "In any event we are EXTREME VETTING people coming into the U.S. in order to help keep our country safe. The courts are slow and political!" ***These statements were issued on Twitter from @realDonaldTrump***

-- BY THE WAY... These tweets appear to be a direct response to the conversation on "Morning Joe" this morning. Joe and Mika thanked the president for watching. ... **FOR THE RECORD:** In criticizing the Justice Department, the president is criticizing his own administration.

Good Monday morning. TWO INTERESTING SCOOPS to start your week.

-- THE HOTTEST TICKET: Fired FBI director James Comey's public testimony at Thursday's Senate Intelligence Committee hearing is attracting "Monica Lewinsky-esque" levels of interest from the media wanting to cover his appearance, multiple sources confirm. Senate Daily Press Gallery Director Laura Lytle, who started working in the gallery during the Clinton impeachment trial, said the "interest level is very similar" to those hearings. "That's the busiest I've ever seen it ... The difference is the news

industry has changed. The demand for information needs to be faster and quicker." Another source involved in the hearings said "the buzz is like the '90s" in terms of excitement and seriousness.

Top gallery staff are scheduled to meet Monday with aides on the Intel panel to discuss the specifics of how many reporters will be allowed into Hart 216 Thursday. Usually about 120 reporters, not including photographers, are allowed to sit in the press section of the hearing room.

-- TRUMP'S CAPITOL HILL DINNER: President Donald Trump is hosting a half dozen members of Congress for dinner at the White House Tuesday night, continuing one of the strongest aspects of his presidency: his outreach to Capitol Hill Republicans. Sens. Marco Rubio (R-Fla.), Cory Gardner (R-Colo.), Tom Cotton (R-Ark.) and Todd Young (R-Ind.), and Reps. Lee Zeldin (R-N.Y.) and Francis Rooney (R-Fla.) will all dine with the president. Rooney is a newly elected lawmaker who was a mega fundraiser for Republicans like George W. Bush and Mitt Romney. He was also ambassador to the Holy See in the Bush administration.

OVERHEARD AT TRUMP NATIONAL: Trump discussing his decision to pull out of the Paris climate agreement over lunch after playing a round of golf Sunday. Trump's post-Paris analysis: they can't even get the weather report right, so how come they think they can get that right?

PALACE INTRIGUE -- JOSH DAWSEY AND BEN WHITE: "How Reince Priebus hangs on": "As White House officials scrambled to put together a Rose Garden ceremony with a military band last week, conservative blogger Erick Erickson blared this headline: 'Reince Priebus's Departure is Imminent.' Priebus, seemingly embattled since day one as President Donald Trump's chief of staff, shrugged the story off, as usual. He spent much of the day with Trump, organizing the Paris accord event, finalizing the list of attendees and the president's talking points. And he was back at the White House Friday.

"It is the fundamental dichotomy Priebus confronts these days. He is a dead man walking, according to senior White House officials, advisers and others close to the president. Aides have begun speculating about his next job. The Washington Post reported he might be ambassador to Greece. Trump adviser Roger Stone later posted a picture of the country online and labeled it as Priebus's next destination. Yet he continues to show up for work every day as the chief of staff, even as headlines say he will be fired-if not today, then tomorrow or next week.

"And yet, he remains in place. His greatest job security: There are few takers for what might be an unworkable gig. He stays in the office until late at night and often toils away on the weekend with little control of what ultimately happens." http://politi.co/2rBC4GJ

LAST NIGHT AT FORD'S THEATRE ... TRUMP ON THE LONDON ATTACKS -- "We renew our resolve, stronger than ever before, to protect the United States and its allies

from a vile enemy that has waged war on innocent life," Trump said while attending the Ford's Theatre Annual Gala, according to a pool report. "And it has gone on too long. This bloodshed must end. This bloodshed will end. As president, I will do what is necessary is to prevent this threat from spreading to our shores." Trump said he had spoken with Prime Minister Theresa May.

-- "In shadow of deadly attacks, British election campaign resumes," by Reuters' Andy Bruce and Kate Holton in London: "After the third militant attack in Britain in less than three months, [Theresa] May said Thursday's election would go ahead but said Britain had been far too tolerant of extremism. 'Violence can never be allowed to disrupt the democratic process,' May, who served as interior minister from 2010 to 2016, said outside her Downing Street office. ...

"While British pollsters all predict May will win the most seats in Thursday's election, they have given an array of different numbers for how big her win will be, ranging from a landslide victory to a much more slender win without a majority. Some polls indicate the election could be close, possibly throwing Britain into political deadlock just days before formal Brexit talks with the European Union are due to begin on June 19." http://reut.rs/2s8YPnV

IMPORTANT TEST FOR TILLERSON -- NYT: "4 Arab States Break Ties With Qatar, Complicating U.S. Coalition-Building," by Gardiner Harris and Michael Gordon in Sydney, Australia: "Secretary of State Rex W. Tillerson offered on Monday to help resolve an intensifying dispute between Qatar and four Arab countries that threatens to complicate the Trump administration's effort to mobilize coalitions against Iran and terrorist groups in the Middle East. 'We certainly would encourage the parties to sit down together and address these differences,' Mr. Tillerson said, adding a reference to the Gulf Cooperation Council, a group of Persian Gulf countries. 'If there's any role that we can play in terms of helping them address those, we think it is important that the G.C.C. remain unified.'

"Mr. Tillerson's remarks came on the heels of dramatic announcements by Bahrain, Egypt, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates that they are suspending diplomatic ties, as well as air and sea travel to and from Qatar, potentially choking off access to a crucial United States ally. In its statement, Saudi Arabia urged 'all brotherly countries and companies' to do the same. ... Indeed, Mr. Trump became so enamored of the Saudis that he cast them as the centerpiece of a possible peace deal between the Israelis and Palestinians. But such a deal relied in part on the Arab world uniting behind the Saudis as an interlocutor, a prospect made far less likely by Monday's events." http://nyti.ms/2qSsrGo

-- AP: "Dubai's budget carrier FlyDubai says it has canceled its flights to Qatar amid a diplomatic dispute between it and other Arab countries. The carrier said Monday that all flights starting Tuesday would be suspended. It offered no other details. FlyDubai's decision follows that of Emirates and Etihad in canceling flights to Doha." http://apne.ws/2rsjvX1

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THE NEW NARRATIVE -- "GOP running out of time for legislative achievements," by AP's Erica Werner: "President Donald Trump and his GOP allies on Capitol Hill have made it through nearly half their first year in power without a single major legislative achievement. If that's going to change, it will have to start soon, a reality that Republican lawmakers will confront when they return to the Capitol on Monday from a weeklong break. 'We just need to work harder,' the second-ranking Republican senator, John Cornyn of Texas, said in an interview with KFYO radio in Lubbock, Texas, over the recess.

"For now, the party's marquee agenda items remain undone, their fate uncertain. The long-promised effort to overturn former President Barack Obama's health law hangs in limbo in the Senate after barely passing the House. A tax overhaul that's a top Trump priority is unwritten and in dispute, despite his recent claim on Twitter that it's ahead of schedule....

"Lawmakers will deal with those issues and more as Congress comes back into session, and realistically the window for action is closing fast. Seven legislative weeks are left before Congress scatters for a five-week August recess, a period when lawmakers are likely to lose momentum if they have failed to act on health care or taxes, and face GOP voters frustrated that they haven't delivered." http://apne.ws/2suWTDy

-- "Trump is finding it easier to tear down old policies than to build his own," by WaPo's Jenna Johnson, Juliet Eilperin and Ed O'Keefe: "Voters are still waiting for progress on the $1 trillion package of infrastructure projects Trump promised, the wall along the Southern border he insisted could be quickly constructed and the massive tax cuts he touted during the campaign. Even debate over health-care reform is largely focused on eliminating key parts of the Affordable Care Act and allowing states to craft policies in their place. After being the 'party of no' during the Obama years, Republicans are trying to figure out what they want to achieve in this unexpected Trump era - beyond just rolling back what Obama did." http://wapo.st/2rVzazl

COMING ATTRACTIONS -- "Senate Republicans fear 'train wreck' in September," by Burgess Everett and Seung Min Kim: "Concerns are rising in Washington that Congress may be headed toward the economic and political disaster of a debt default and a government shutdown later this year. And the chamber most likely to get Congress out of the jam - the Senate - is failing to live up to its moniker as the world's greatest deliberative body.

"Rather than a honeymoon with a new presidency and Republicans firmly in the

majority, the Senate has become a grinding churn of nomination votes constantly delayed by Democrats, and partisan warfare with little bipartisan cooperation other than averting an April government shutdown. There's no budget, no funding levels for the fall and little talk between the two parties on how to avoid a shutdown and debt default in late summer or early fall, worrying senators in both parties." http://politi.co/2rBlS8n

THE JUICE ...

-- HOUSE MINORITY LEADER NANCY PELOSI will appear this morning on ABC's "The View" at 11:20 a.m. to talk about the London terrorist attacks, infrastructure, healthcare and Trump's ties to Russia.

-- THE FIRST FAMILY BEAT -- "Dressed to the nines! The First couples Ivanka and Jared and Donald and Melania turn heads in their black-tie attire as they head to the Ford's Theatre Gala hand-in-hand with Jared" - The Daily Mail -- *15 pix on one page* http://dailym.ai/2qPa2X5

-- "Peyton Manning spotted with President Trump, Sen. Bob Corker on a golf outing" - WaPo: http://wapo.st/2qPuwPa

SPORTS BLINK -- "Warriors make it two routs in a row over the Cavaliers in NBA Finals," by L.A. Times' Tania Ganguli: http://lat.ms/2rVzK0j

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-- HAVE QUESTIONS FOR OUR MAYOR? Email us, and we'll try to squeeze your question in!

Playbook Reads

PHOTO DU JOUR: Former NFL quarterback Peyton Manning, right, exits a vehicle after arriving on the South Lawn of the White House on June 4. Manning was traveling in President Donald Trump's motorcade, which was returning from Trump National Golf Club in Sterling, Virginia. | Pablo Martinez Monsivais/AP Photo

SCOOP FROM SUSAN GLASSER -- "Trump National Security Team Blindsided by NATO Speech: They thought the president would commit to the principle of collective defense. They were wrong": "When President Donald Trump addressed NATO leaders during his debut overseas trip little more than a week ago, he surprised and disappointed European allies who hoped -- and expected -- he would use his speech to

explicitly reaffirm America's commitment to mutual defense of the alliance's members, a one-for-all, all-for-one provision that looks increasingly urgent as Eastern European members worry about the threat from a resurgent Russia on their borders.

"That part of the Trump visit is known. What's not is that the president also disappointed - and surprised - his own top national security officials by failing to include the language reaffirming the so-called Article 5 provision in his speech. National security adviser H.R. McMaster, Defense Secretary Jim Mattis and Secretary of State Rex Tillerson all supported Trump doing so and had worked in the weeks leading up to the trip to make sure it was included in the speech, according to five sources familiar with the episode. They thought it was, and a McMaster aide even briefed reporters from the New York Times the day before that the line was definitely included.

"It was not until the next day ... when Trump started talking at an opening ceremony for NATO's new Brussels headquarters, that the president's national security team realized their boss had made a decision with major consequences - without consulting or even informing them in advance of the change. 'They had the right speech and it was cleared through McMaster,' said a source briefed by National Security Council officials in the immediate aftermath of the NATO meeting. 'As late as that same morning, it was the right one.'" http://politi.co/2rsh8DJ ... ***Transcript of Susan's new podcast with Strobe Talbott*** http://politi.co/2rJTBhM ... ***Subscribe*** http://apple.co/2kJ9q1U

DANIEL BENJAMIN, former State Department coordinator for counterterrorism, in **POLITICO Magazine, "Is Trump Fighting Terrorism?** Or is he just tweeting about it, while making it worse?": "Trump's steps so far seem to be designed to exacerbate the danger and lengthen the life expectancy of jihadism. ... Unfortunately, every piece of evidence from the past 20 years of fighting terrorism shows that the population of jihadis can grow dynamically depending on events. With the paralysis of the Trump/Tillerson State Department, where there are almost no Senate-confirmed officeholders at the assistant secretary level or higher and the plan is to gut the State Department/USAID budget by close to a third, it is hard to envision any kind of future for the sort of diplomacy and development we need to diminish the jihadi threat. Trump unwittingly is setting the stage for major growth in the population of people who would like to kill us." http://politi.co/2rJuKuN

-- "Trump's sluggish hiring could hamper anti-terror plans," by Andrew Restuccia: "[T]he president's counter-terrorism strategy could be hindered by dozens of vacancies across the government, not least a permanent FBI director. Top ranks at the State Department remain largely unfilled, as are some key ambassadorships. Trump has not named anyone to lead [TSA], which screens people at airports, or to run the Homeland Security office charged with protecting the country's physical and cyber infrastructure. His choice to lead [FEMA] is awaiting Senate confirmation, but Trump has not named a deputy. At the Justice Department, Trump has not nominated an assistant attorney general for the national security division. And he has not nominated a deputy at the Office of the Director of National Intelligence or a director of the office's National Counterterrorism Center. And, perhaps most crucially, Trump has not yet named a

permanent leader of the FBI, which plays a central role in combating domestic terrorism." http://politi.co/2suXnd3

MEGYN KELLY'S NBC DEBUT WITH PUTIN -- "Putin denies having compromising information on Trump," by Rebecca Morin: "Russian President Vladimir Putin on Sunday denied having compromising information on President Donald Trump, calling it 'nonsense.' During an interview on NBC News' 'Sunday Night with Megyn Kelly,' host Megyn Kelly asked Putin if he has 'something damaging on our president.' Putin rebuffed the accusation. ... 'Well, this is just another load of nonsense. Where would we get this information from? Why, did we have some special relationship with him? We didn't have any relationship at all,' the Russian president said.

"Putin said he never met with Trump during the latter's visits to Moscow, adding that a lot of Americans and companies come to Russia and saying the country doesn't gather information on them. 'Right now, I think we have representatives from a hundred American companies that have come to Russia. Do you think we're gathering compromising information on all of them right now or something? Are you all, have you all lost your senses over there?' Putin, a former KGB spy, said." http://politi.co/2sulHuv

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CLINTON COMEBACK TOUR -- "Clinton to address Baltimore group that builds ties between black, Jewish communities," by Baltimore Sun's John Fritze: "With her first public appearance in Baltimore since the Democratic primary last year, Clinton returns to a city and state that overwhelmingly supported her candidacy. Eighty-six percent of Baltimore voters backed her over Trump, and organizers said the sold-out fundraiser will raise some $200,000. Clinton will address a group [the Elijah Cummings Youth Program] founded to build ties between the African-American and Jewish communities at a time when both have had a complicated relationship with Trump." http://bsun.md/2qSq8Dk

BEYOND THE BELTWAY -- "Dueling Portland rallies end without major violence, but police intervene," by The Oregonian's Brad Schmidt: "Dueling rallies engulfed five blocks of downtown Portland on Sunday as hundreds of Trump supporters and counter-demonstrators hurled insults but largely avoided physical confrontation during a tense standoff just days after police arrested a known extremist in the grisly killing of two good Samaritans. Officers in riot gear prevented a full-scale clash between protest blocs by restricting access to Terry Schrunk Plaza, where Trump backers and free-speech advocates rallied for hours in a self-contained bubble within this liberal city.

"Three distinct groups of counter-demonstrators overtook the surrounding blocks, forming a perimeter along streets and sidewalks while chanting anti-hate messages and sometimes taunting Trump supporters under the watchful eye of police. Officers deployed explosives and pepper balls to scatter the antifascist crowd gathered in Chapman and Lownsdale squares just north of the pro-Trump rally. By 6 p.m., each demonstration had subsided without any significant violence and police had arrested 14." http://bit.ly/2qSkfGk ... ***Protest pics*** http://bit.ly/2rJc8eh

THE NATION OF CALIFORNIA -- "[Jerry] Brown's first stops in China are in cities that look a lot like California," by the L.A. Times' Jessica Meyers in Chengdu, China: "Brown's meetings began Sunday in the Sichuan provincial capital of Chengdu, part of a weeklong trip hinged on his mantra of climate change collaboration. Sichuan's rivers and steep terrain have helped make it a hub for hydropower. Nanjing's Jiangsu province, which he will visit on Monday, aims to position itself as a leader on renewable energy. These local stops take on greater significance amid President Trump's decision Thursday to pull the U.S. from a historic Paris climate accord led by China and the Obama administration. Officials are reinforcing regional partnerships -- with the economic links they provide -- in a quiet effort to ensure continued ties." http://lat.ms/2qSlcyo

PLAYBOOK METRO SECTION -- "Kalorama's parking crisis deepens with Obamas and Ivanka Trump as neighbors," by WaPo's Luz Lazo. http://wapo.st/2qWz1Xu

MEDIAWATCH -- "Of course Washington is plagued by leaks. That's a good thing," by WaPo's Margaret Sullivan: "Ever since taking office, President Trump has been condemning leaks, leakers and the journalists they leak to. ... Paul Steiger stakes out the opposite position. The revered former managing editor of the Wall Street Journal (and founder of ProPublica, the investigative nonprofit) put it this way: 'It is not the publishing of these secrets that threatens national security. Publishing these secrets threatens the secret-keepers. It protects the public interest by letting us know what powerful people are doing when they think no one is looking.' Accepting a journalism award, Steiger summed it up: 'We need more journalists revealing more secrets, not fewer.'" http://wapo.st/2qSeVCx

--"Breitbart employees infuriated by colleagues' 'appalling' comments after London terror attack," by CNN's Oliver Darcy: "Breitbart employees expressed strong displeasure on Sunday with two of their colleagues for inflammatory comments posted to Twitter in the aftermath of the London terror attack. 'I find it appalling,' one Breitbart employee told CNN. 'It's a terrible comment,' another Breitbart employee told CNN, saying it was wrong to make a blanket statement about an entire religious group. ... A third Breitbart employee described the comments as 'dumb.' Following the attack in London ... Breitbart writer Katie McHugh tweeted, 'There would be no deadly terror attacks in the U.K. if Muslims didn't live there.'" http://cnnmon.ie/2qPplPs

Playbookers

[redacted]

http://bit.ly/2qPuqHv

WEEKEND WEDDINGS -- CNN correspondent **Pamela Brown** married **Adam Wright** over the weekend at her childhood home, Cave Hill in Kentucky. "Celebrations included Woodford Reserve bourbon tasting, Kentucky-made Crank and Boom ice cream, and Kentucky Derby bugler Steve Buttleman doing the call to post." ***Pics*** http://bit.ly/2rBnsqX ... http://bit.ly/2qX005p ... http://bit.ly/2rVr365 ... ***Dana Bash blowing a trumpet*** http://bit.ly/2s8VB3N

SPOTTED: CNN executives Jeff Zucker, Amy Entelis, Virginia Moseley and husband Tom Nides, CNN correspondent Dana Bash and Spencer Garrett, Gloria Borger and Lance Morgan, Sally Quinn and son Quinn Bradlee, Jerry Bruckheimer and wife Linda, Evan Perez, and Elise Labott.

-- SPOTTED at Third Way President **Jon Cowan's** wedding to **Rachel Rosenthal** of Rachel and Company at Kinship in D.C. on Sunday: Matt Bai, and Ellen Uchimiya (who introduced the couple), Jacquie Lawing Ebert and husband Brian, Nancy Hale, Jim Kessler, Matt Bennett, Amy Liu, Nancy Jacobson and Mark Penn, and Rhoda Glickman. ***Pic*** http://bit.ly/2rVAtyn

RUBIO ALUMNI -- Robert Daniels, former personal assistant to Sen. Marco Rubio (R-Fla.) from May 2011 to August 2016, got married on Saturday to **Jane Ann Coleman,** at the Country Club of Virginia in Richmond. Robert is now regional sales manager for Titan Transfer Solutions in Greenville, South Carolina, and Jane is South Carolina sales representative for Ginna Dunlap Stationery. They met in D.C. while Robert was working for Rubio and Janie was the nanny for the Allbritton family. ***Pic*** http://bit.ly/2qWQwXN **SPOTTED:** Robert and Elena Allbritton and their three children, Jessica Diaz, Mike Haidet, Sarah Daniels

WELCOME TO THE WORLD -- Bret Jacobson, partner at digital advocacy firm Red Edge, and **Trice Jacobson,** director of strategic communications at the Charles Koch Institute, welcomed their third daughter, Evelyn Jacobson. "[H]er sisters, who think Heaven has come to Earth with a little baby sister they can kiss and dress up from sunrise to sunset." ***Pics*** http://bit.ly/2qS6bwy ... http://bit.ly/2sHaU0e ... http://bit.ly/2rBeCJr

TRANSITIONS - OBAMA ALUMNI -- Former Obama administration DOJ officials **Peter Kadzik** and **Alicia O'Brien** have joined Venable's government division as partners in their D.C. office. Kadzik most recently served as assistant attorney general in the office of legislative affairs, while O'Brien served as an associate deputy attorney general in the office of the deputy attorney general and a deputy assistant attorney general in OLA. They both worked at Dickstein Shapiro prior to joining DOJ.

-- Stu Loeser & Co. has hired **Jeane MacIntosh** to lead a new corporate intelligence and research practice. MacIntosh spent two decades at the N.Y. Post as an investigative and breaking news reporter and previously was director of research at Marathon Strategies. **Jake Petzold** has also joined from Gerson Lehrman Group to expand the firm's speechwriting and executive communications work. Petzold was previously an independent consultant in L.A., where he wrote speeches for clients including Mayor Eric Garcetti.

-- Laura W. Fornash, former Virginia secretary of education, has joined McGuireWoods Consulting as a SVP and co-leader of its national education practice. http://politi.co/2rBvGPH

BIRTHWEEK (was yesterday): May Davis, assistant staff secretary at the White House ... **(was Thursday):** Argentine diplomat Federico Barttfeld - his birthday coincided with his departure from D.C. and the Embassy here (where he was head of cultural affairs) to become the first Ambassador of Argentina to Singapore (hat tip: Ben Chang)

BIRTHDAY OF THE DAY: Ward Baker, former NRSC executive director and president of the Baker Group. How he's celebrating: "Just spending time with family this [past] weekend because I am traveling on Tuesday with the next governor of Florida, Adam Putnam." Read his Playbook Plus Q&A: http://politi.co/2rrY2xw

BIRTHDAYS: Sam Sifton is 51 ... Megan Beyer ... David Espo is 68 (h/t Jon Haber) ... Suze Orman is 66 ... Abeer Al Otaiba, founder and creative director of luxury fashion line SemSem (hubby tip: Yousef) ... Bill Moyers is 83 ... N.Y. Post's Andrea Peyser ... Mike Heimowitz ... Rob Engstrom, SVP and national political director at the U.S. Chamber ... Elan Kriegel, co-founder of BlueLabs and battleground states analytics director on Obama 2012 ... Politico alum Chelsea Raab, now at FiscalNote ... Jordan Ballard ... Atlantic alum Matt Vasilogambros, now "hiking the Pacific Crest Trail," per his Twitter ... Shane Pummill ...

... Katy Summerlin, account manager at Rokk Solutions and an Issa and Collins alum, who celebrated Friday with a swanky speakeasy party at For Rent (h/t Becca Glover) ... John D'Adamo, who runs the D.C. office of BizBash, the events media company, and continues his active involvement in all things D.C. politics (h/t Brandon Shaw) ... NBC News' Tali Deeb (h/t Olivia Deeb) ... Travis Brock ... Linda Krantz ... Karen Campbell ... Lester Pines ... Carol Guensburg ... Katie Visco (h/ts Teresa Vilmain) ... Ellen Fleysher ... Riley Dickens ... Thomas Michael ... Aaron Latham ... Raj Khandwalla ... WaPo alum Tony Reid is 6-0 ... Arnold L. Flowers III ... Eric Wind ... former Canadian Prime Minister Joe Clark is 78 ... Kenny G is 60 ... Mark Wahlberg is 46 (h/ts AP)

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To: Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
From: POLITICO Pro
Sent: Wed 5/24/2017 7:22:56 PM
Subject: U.S. trade commission surveys solar sector in Suniva investigation

By Esther Whieldon

05/24/2017 03:16 PM EDT

The U.S. International Trade Commission is surveying domestic and foreign solar energy companies to determine whether the influx of cheap solar cells and modules from Asian countries is harming the U.S. manufacturing market.

The commission launched an investigation on Tuesday into Suniva's request that the agency recommend President Donald Trump impose trade restrictions for four years on imported solar cells and modules, which Suniva said are putting it out of business. The ITC today posted a series of questionnaires online that it sent to importers, purchasers and foreign and domestic manufacturers.

The commission asked whether the pattern of imports, sales, and production of solar panels and modules have changed following anti-dumping and countervailing duty orders on imports from China and Taiwan. It wants to know whether companies can use non-solar renewables or alternative solar energy products to substitute for the crystalline silicon photovoltaic cell technology. And the commission also asked whether state and federal incentives — or natural gas or coal electricity prices — have affected demand for solar equipment or the cost of solar electricity.

WHAT'S NEXT: The commission asked the companies to respond by June 29 and promised to keep any commercial and financial data in the responses confidential. It expects to determine the extent to which the cheaper solar panels are causing injury by Sept. 22 and to send its recommendations to Trump by Nov. 13.

To view online:
https://www.politicopro.com/energy/whiteboard/2017/05/us-trade-commission-surveys-solar-sector-in-suniva-investigation-088262

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To: Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
From: POLITICO
Sent: Fri 6/16/2017 1:50:32 PM
Subject: BREAKING NEWS: Trump appears to confirm that he's facing obstruction probe

President Donald Trump acknowledged on Friday that he is under investigation for firing FBI director James Comey, and appeared to attack his own deputy attorney general for launching the special counsel probe that has intensified in recent days.

"I am being investigated for firing the FBI Director by the man who told me to fire the FBI Director! Witch Hunt," Trump tweeted.

Read more: http://politi.co/2sAjthm

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To: Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
From: InsideEPA/climate
Sent: Wed 5/24/2017 6:46:54 PM
Subject: Latest News from InsideEPA/climate

May 24, 2017

California Debate Over GHG Trading Bill May Extend Past Budget Deadline

Ongoing negotiations over California legislation to establish a post-2020 greenhouse gas cap-and-trade or tax program could extend past June 15, the state's deadline to approve its fiscal year 2017-18 budget and the day by which Gov. Jerry Brown (D) has urged lawmakers to pass a bill by a two-thirds margin to extend the current trading program to 2030.

The latest update from *InsideEPA/climate* – from the editors of InsideEPA.com, delivering daily news, analysis and perspective on the renewed debate over climate change policies.

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To: Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
From: POLITICO Pro Energy Whiteboard
Sent: Wed 5/24/2017 6:11:42 PM
Subject: Pruitt: Future for carbon rules 'yet to be determined'

By Alex Guillén

05/24/2017 02:04 PM EDT

EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt said today that he has not yet decided on a path forward regarding the Clean Power Plan and regulation of greenhouse gas emissions from power plants.

"We're going to evaluate our authority under Section 111. We're going to evaluate our authority under the Clean Air Act with respect to stationary sources and make an informed decision about what Congress has empowered us to do in those areas. And that's yet to be determined," Pruitt said at an event hosted by the law firm Faegre Baker Daniels.

Pruitt reiterated his uncertainty about what "tools" EPA can use under the Clean Air Act, though as Oklahoma's attorney general he sued EPA over its use of Section 111(d) to write the Clean Power Plan with fuel shifting requirements.

Agencies tend to get into trouble when they "imagine new authority" or try to "do the job of Congress," Pruitt said.

Pruitt also hinted at a much more restrained approach that he thinks would survive court challenges.

"This Supreme Court, in my view, is a Supreme Court that will say very clearly to all executive agencies, 'do the job of the statute, do the job Congress assigned to you. If you seek to do more than that, it's going to be an issue,'" he said.

To view online:
https://www.politicopro.com/energy/whiteboard/2017/05/pruitt-future-for-carbon-rules-yet-to-be-determined-088258

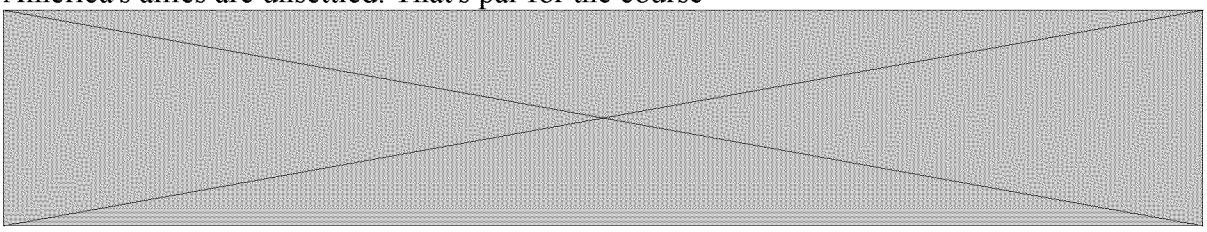
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To: Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
From: American Enterprise Institute
Sent: Mon 6/5/2017 10:08:15 AM
Subject: AEI Today: America's allies are unsettled. Lately, that's par for the course.

America's allies are unsettled. That's par for the course



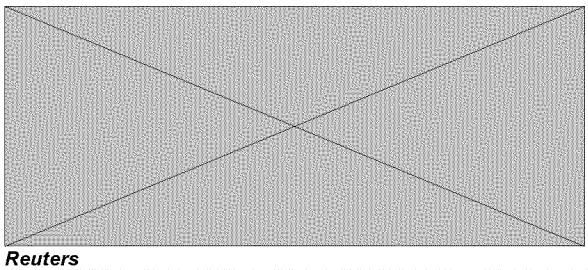
AEI's daily publication of independent research, insightful analysis, and scholarly debate

Reuters

America's allies are unsettled. Lately, that's par for the course.

Thomas Donnelly | The Weekly Standard

German Chancellor Angela Merkel reflected on Donald Trump's blitz through Europe at the tail end of his first trip outside the United States. "The times when we could fully rely on others are kind of over," she said. Merkel was reflecting on the antagonistic approach to multilateral trade regimes and the Paris Agreement on climate change Trump had displayed. But the underlying message was more general and more disturbing.



Reuters

It's time to get over the

fatalism surrounding the filibuster

Peter J. Wallison | The Wall Street Journal

President Trump urged Republican lawmakers this week to overrule the Senate filibuster and get on with passing his agenda. “The U.S. Senate should switch to 51 votes, immediately,” he tweeted. Trump has a point. Majority Leader Mitch McConnell has said the Senate will not abandon the filibuster rule, which requires the consent of 60 senators to advance legislation. But there are compelling reasons to consider the idea.

Flickr

The benefits of leaving the Paris Agreement

Benjamin Zycher | National Review

President Trump announced that he would withdraw the US from the international climate agreement reached in Paris in late 2015 but would seek to renegotiate it so as to achieve a “better deal.” And it took only minutes after his speech for all the usual suspects to begin screaming. Lost in all this rhetoric is that the Paris Agreement is all pain and no gain, regardless of one’s view of climate policy generally.

Reuters

How the safety net fairs in the budget

Angela Rachidi | AEIdeas

It's been more than a week since President Trump released his first budget, and perhaps unsurprisingly it has been described as dead on arrival. Lawmakers on both sides are unlikely to support cuts that fall almost exclusively on the poor, even with the apparent trade-off in defense spending increases and tax cuts. Nonetheless, a few aspects related to safety net programs are worthy of consideration.

More from AEI

What to keep in mind when responding to terrorism and extremism
Michael Rubin | AEIdeas

Don't blame state budget cuts for the rising tuition costs at public universities

Jason D. Delisle | Brookings Institution

Why the Browser Act is flawed public policy in the name of privacy

Daniel Lyons | TechPolicyDaily.com

Looking over the good, bad, and ugly from May's jobs report

James Pethokoukis | AEIdeas

The president of Turkey files a criminal complaint against one of AEI's scholars

Michael Rubin | AEIdeas

Beware of so-called experts on education reform

Frederick M. Hess | AEI video

The climate outrage machine needs to develop some new talking points

Marc A. Thiessen | AEIdeas

How is the US performing in the intelligence wars?
Gary J. Schmitt | AEIdeas

Banter #269: William Connelly and Gary Schmitt discuss the future of Congress
Spencer Moore and Gary J. Schmitt | AEI Banter

Looking beyond the headlines of the monthly jobs report
Aparna Mathur | AEI

Trump's missed opportunity to promote nuclear power
James Pethokoukis | AEIdeas

Prime Minister Modi's failure to confront violence
Sadanand Dhume | The Wall Street Journal

Who controls budget scoring models if they become open source?
Matt Jensen | AEI

RSVP: AEI and Brookings discuss their latest joint report on paid family leave
Aparna Mathur | AEI event on Tuesday at 9:00 AM ET

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To: Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
From: Bloomberg BNA
Sent: Fri 6/16/2017 12:56:07 PM
Subject: June 16 -- EHS State Regulatory Alert

EHS State Regulatory Alert

June 16, 2017 - Number 115

You can create a report customized by topic, jurisdiction, and date range by using the Regulatory Summaries Report Tool. The report can be generated in Excel, Word, or PDF.

California Regions

AIR
Adhesives and Sealants
California Regions AIR

Notice of the South Coast Air Quality Management District announces the availability of a preliminary draft amendment to regulations under Rule 1168 regarding volatile organic compound (VOC) emissions limitations for adhesives and sealants. The rule updates VOC limits and clarifies that the limits apply to adhesives, adhesive primers, caulks, sealants, or sealant primers sold, stored, supplied, offered for sale, or manufactured for sale in the state. The rule also excludes from requirements products for consumer use where the units of product weigh less than one pound and consist of less than 16 fluid ounces and where there is an applicable VOC limit in the California Air Resources Board consumer products regulation. In addition, the rule adds VOC content container labeling requirements and reporting requirements. A comment due date is not specified. Contact: South Coast AQMD; 909-396-2000

—California RegionsRegulations (06/09/2017)

Regulatory Update

WATER
Sacramento and San Joaquin River Basin Plan
California Regions WATER

Notice of the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board announces proposed amendments to the Sacramento River Basin and the San Joaquin River basin plan. The amendments clarify compliance requirements of the first phase of a previously adopted control program to meet salinity objectives, establish salinity water quality objectives, incorporate an implementation program on salinity objectives, set an electrical conductivity performance goal during specified times, require a monitoring and surveillance program on salinity objectives, establish a compliance date of Jan. 1, 2020, for the objectives, and provide a re-evaluation process for the control efforts. A comment due date is not specified. Contact: Pamela Creedon; CVRWQCB; 916-464-3291

—California RegionsRegulations (06/09/2017)

Regulatory Update

WATER
Sacramento and San Joaquin River, Tulare Lake Basin Water Quality Control Plans
California Regions WATER

Notice of the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board announces workshops regarding the triennial review of the water quality control plans for the Sacramento and San Joaquin river basins and the Tulare Lake Basin. Comments are requested on basin plan elements that may need amendment. The agenda includes identification of basin planning issues to be addressed over the next three years. The workshops are scheduled for Aug. 16 and 23, 2017, in Fresno and Rancho Cordova, respectively. Comments are due Aug. 31, 2017. Contact: Betty Yee; Central Valley RQQCB; 916-464-4643; byee@waterboards.ca.gov

—California RegionsRegulations (06/09/2017)

Regulatory Update

Florida

WATER
Drinking and Clean Water State Revolving Fund Priority Lists
Florida WATER

Notice of the Department of Environmental Protection, State Revolving Fund Program, announces a meeting to discuss the issues and recommendations for management of the fiscal year 2018 Clean Water State Revolving Fund and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund priority lists of projects to be funded with loans under FAC 62-503 and -552. The meeting is scheduled for Aug. 9, 2017, in Tallahassee. Contact: Michael Isaacson; DEP, State Revolving Fund Program; 850-245-2928; michael.isaacson@dep.state.fl.us

—Florida Administrative Weekly (06/14/2017)

Regulatory Update

WATER
Middle St. Johns River Basin TMDLs
Florida WATER

Notice of the Department of Environmental Protection announces a workshop on proposed amendments to regulations under FAC 62-304.505 to revise nutrient total maximum daily loads (TMDLs) for impaired waters in the Middle St. Johns River Basin. The workshop will address nutrient TMDLs for Lake George, St. Johns River below Lake George, and St. Johns River above Ocklawaha River. The workshop is scheduled for July 17, 2017, in Palatka. Comments are due July 28, 2017. Contact: Erin Rasnake; DEP, Watershed Evaluation and TMDL Section; 850-245-

8338; erin.rasnake@dep.state.fl.us

—Florida Administrative Weekly (06/14/2017)

Regulatory Update

Rhode Island

AIR
Efficient Buildings Fund Project Priority List
Rhode Island AIR

Proposed rule of the Department of Administration, Office of Energy Resources, amends regulations under RICR 300-00-00-1 regarding the Efficient Buildings Fund project priority list. The rule provides for new eligible technologies, clarifies definitions and the application period, consolidates provisions on evaluation criteria, and adds a provision concerning the requisition for payment. A hearing is scheduled for July 14, 2017, in Providence. Comments are due July 14, 2017. Contact: Barbara Cesaro; DEM, Office of Energy Resources; 401-574-9105; Barbara.cesaro@energy.ri.gov

—Rhode Island Regulations (06/13/2017)

Regulatory Update

Virginia

AIR
Emissions Trading Programs
Virginia AIR

Notice announces the intention of the Department of Environmental Quality, Air Pollution Control Board, to amend regulations under 9 VAC 5-140 regarding carbon dioxide (CO2) emission reduction from electric power facilities. The rule addresses the trading of CO2 allowances through a multistate trading program and abatement mechanisms that provide for a corresponding level of stringency to CO2 limits imposed in other states with such limits. Comments are due July 26, 2017. Contact: Karen Sabasteanski; DEQ; 804-698-4426; karen.sabasteanski@deq.virginia.gov

—Virginia Register (06/26/2017)

Regulatory Update

AIR
SIP Revision/Northern Virginia Ozone Nonattainment Area
Virginia AIR

Notice of the Department of Environmental Quality, Air Pollution Control Board, announces a proposed revision to the state implementation plan regarding attainment of the national ambient air quality standard for ozone in the Northern Virginia ozone nonattainment area. The revision consists of a certification that the state's existing emissions statement requirements for the area are at least as stringent as the requirements under section 182(a)(3)(B) of the Clean Air Act. The revision will be submitted to the EPA for approval. Comments and hearing requests are due July 26, 2017. Contact: Karen Sabasteanski; DEQ; 804-698-4426; karen.sabasteanski@deq.virginia.gov

—Virginia Register (06/26/2017)

Regulatory Update

WATER
Prince George County/Water Control Law Consent Order
Virginia WATER

Notice of the Department of Environmental Quality, State Water Control Board, announces a proposed consent order with Perkinson Construction LLC for alleged State Water Control Law violations concerning unstabilized areas, erosion, and sediment control deficiencies associated with construction activity at the Buren property in Prince George County. The consent order requires the settling party to pay a civil penalty of $12,285. Comments are due July 26, 2017. Contact: Kristen Sadtler; DEQ; 804-698-4149; kristen.sadtler@deq.virginia.gov

—Virginia Register (06/26/2017)

Regulatory Update

WATER
VPDES Permits/Stormwater Management Program
Virginia WATER

Final rule of the Department of Environmental Quality, Water Control Board, amends regulations under 9 VAC 25-31-25 through -840 (nonconsecutive) and 9 VAC 25-870-10 through -650 (nonconsecutive), and adopts regulations under 9 VAC 25-31-950 through -1030 regarding the Virginia Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (VPDES) general permit and the Virginia Stormwater Management Program. The rule incorporates the requirements of EPA's Oct. 22, 2015, National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System electronic reporting rule. The rule is effective July 26, 2017. Contact: Debra Harris; DEQ; 804-698-4209; debra.harris@deq.virginia.gov

—Virginia Register (06/26/2017)

Regulatory Update

WATER
Water Quality Management Planning Regulation
Virginia WATER

Notice announces the intention of the State Water Control Board to amend regulations under 9 VAC 25-720-80 regarding water quality management planning. The amendments would modify the existing wasteload allocations for CBOD5 and TKN for the South Hill wastewater treatment plant,

located in the Roanoke River Basin. A meeting is scheduled for June 28, 2017, in Richmond. Contact: Amanda Gray; DEQ; 434-582-6227; amanda.gray@deq.virginia.gov

—Virginia Register (06/26/2017)

Regulatory Update

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EHS State Regulatory Alert

To: Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
From: POLITICO Pro Energy
Sent: Mon 6/5/2017 9:44:27 AM
Subject: Morning Energy: Pruitt still won't clarify Trump's climate views — More governors double down on climate action — Major week for energy nominations

By Anthony Adragna | 06/05/2017 05:42 AM EDT

PRUITT MAKES THE CIRCUIT: Climate change dominated the Sunday show circuit for the first time in years, but EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt again dodged nearly a dozen questions asking whether President Donald Trump still rejects the science showing that human activity is driving the problem and continues to consider it a "hoax." He instead stuck to familiar talking points that the administration's decision to withdraw from the Paris climate agreement was because it was a "bad deal" for the U.S. that will harm economic growth. "Frankly, George, I think the whole question is an effort to get it off the point and the issue of whether Paris is good for this country or not," Pruitt said on on ABC's "This Week ." "And the president has indicated the climate changes."

But he didn't get a free ride: "Fox News Sunday's" Chris Wallace peppered Pruitt with aggressive questioning about the decision, asking incredulously how the underlying science of climate change never came up during months of discussions about Paris. After displaying statistics showing there are more than twice as many solar energy employees as those in coal, Wallace asked if the administration's efforts to try to bring back coal are akin to "protecting the horse and buggy business just as cars come online?" Pruitt shot back: "Absolutely not."

ICYMI: Pro's Alex Guillén examines Pruitt's move into the spotlight and inner orbit of Trump world as he helped convince the president to withdraw from the climate deal.

Another Trump administration official, U.N. Ambassador Nikki Haley, asserted to CNN's "State of the Union" that Trump's views are part of the mainstream consensus. "President Trump believes the climate is changing and he believes pollutants are part of the equation," she said. Haley also downplayed concerns leaving the Paris deal would hurt U.S. diplomatic efforts globally. "I don't think we're the skunk at the party," she said. "Just because we got out of a club doesn't mean that we don't care about the environment."

ME's caution: If you want to know how Trump views climate science, best to hear it directly from his mouth.

GORE SLAMS 'RECKLESS' WITHDRAWAL: Pruitt wasn't the only one talking climate on the Sunday shows: former Vice President Al Gore appeared to bash Trump's decision while also expressing hope the U.S. would still hit the Obama administration emissions reduction pledges thanks to the efforts of states, mayors and businesses. "I think it was indefensible and undermines America's standing in the world and threatens the ability of humanity to solve the climate crisis in time," Gore said on CNN.

Zing! Former Secretary of State John Kerry on NBC's "Meet the Press": "When Donald Trump says to the world, 'Well, we're going to negotiate a better deal,' I mean, you know, he's

going to go out and find a better deal? I mean, that's like O.J. Simpson saying he's going to go out and find the real killer. Everybody knows he isn't going to do that."

WELCOME TO MONDAY! I'm your host Anthony Adragna, and the Southern Environmental Law Center's Navis Bermudez correctly picked New Hampshire as the only state in the country without a mandatory seatbelt law. Next up: What's the only state where you can't buy beer, wine and liquor from almost all stores on Sunday? Send your tips, energy gossip and comments to aadragna@politico.com, or follow us on Twitter @AnthonyAdragna, @Morning_Energy, and @POLITICOPro.

OTHERS DOUBLE DOWN — GOP governors join climate alliance: Two Republican Northeastern governors — Massachusetts' Charlie Baker and Vermont's Phil Scott — announced Friday they would join the expanding coalition of U.S. states seeking to uphold the goals of the Paris deal. Along with founding states California, Washington and New York, other participants in the U.S. Climate Alliance now include Connecticut, Hawaii, Oregon and Rhode Island.

No retreat by Modi: Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi showed no signs of stepping back from his country's efforts to address climate change — pointedly calling it the biggest threat facing humanity, along with terrorism — during his first bilateral meeting with French President Emmanuel Macron, POLITICO Europe's Silvia Sciorilli Borrelli reports. "I believe the Paris agreement is a collective asset of the world, this is will also be an asset to the coming generations," Modi said, according to a report by New Delhi TV. "It is our responsibility to protect mother earth." India, the world's third largest emitter, vowed to stick with the accord despite Trump's withdrawal.

Australia's Foreign Minister Julie Bishop reiterated her country's commitment to the Paris Agreement during a Sunday speech. "The EU and Australia will need to take a leadership role" on the climate agreement, Bishop said, according to POLITICO Europe's Zoya Sheftalovich.

PARIS RALLY DRIPS WITH IRONY: About 50 supporters gathered in Lafayette Square (named for the French general who supported the colonies in the American Revolution) for a "Pittsburgh Not Paris" rally to thank Trump for withdrawing from the accord signed in the French capital. As The Pittsburgh Post-Gazette reports, that D.C. rally was dwarfed by one in downtown Steel City that drew 2,000 people in support of the accord after Mayor Bill Peduto announced Friday the city would move toward being powered entirely by clean energy by 2035. Back in D.C., Trump missed his supporters rallying behind his decision as he'd left for his golf course in Virginia before they convened.

HUGE WEEK FOR ENERGY NOMINEES: Lawmakers on the the Senate Energy and Natural Resources committee will vote on the nominations of Neil Chatterjee and Robert Powelson to be FERC commissioners, David Bernhardt to be deputy secretary at Interior, and Dan Brouillette to be No. 2 at DOE Tuesday morning at 9:30 a.m. Ahead of the votes, the nominees released more than 200 pages of responses to questions from senators (available here). Berndardt committed to recuse himself from matters involving former lobbying clients for two years but stopped short of committing to additional transparency measures Democrats requested, Pro's Annie Snider and Esther Whieldon report.

The following day, Environment and Public Works Committee members kick off the process for three Nuclear Regulatory Commission nominees, as well as Susan Bodine's selection to run EPA's enforcement office at 10 a.m.

PERRY AT FUKUSHIMA: Six years after the nuclear emergency, Energy Secretary Rick Perry toured the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power plant in Japan on Sunday. "A truly eye-opening experience," he tweeted with a pic. "The U.S. is committed to our partnership with Japan on this cleanup and our shared vision for a clean environment and brighter future," he added.

WORTH REUPPING: Federal agencies have been instructed by the White House not to cooperate with oversight requests from congressional Democrats, POLITICO's Burgess Everett and Josh Dawsey report. Republicans say the move is designed to stop congressional minorities from getting access to information that might be harmful to the president. "I don't think you'd have the Democrats responding to every minority member request if they were in the same position," one White House official said.

In response, top Senate EPW Democrat Tom Carper said: "This administration believes that it is somehow exempt from the basic requirements of transparency that come with representative government ... I will continue to press for this administration to show their work and report fully and accurately on what actions they are taking on our behalf."

GETTING CHILLY IN HERE: Trump's relationship with corporate America has soured as dozens of executives publicly rebuked the White House over the decision to quit Paris, POLITICO's Ben White and Annie Karni report . They're also dismayed that the administration's big Capitol Hill agenda, which includes passing massive tax cuts, appears stalled and they are terrified by the very public White House fight over how and when to raise the debt limit. The administration brushed off those reports. "We knew there would be blowback from Paris but so far it hasn't been that bad," said one senior official who declined to be identified by name.

SECRETARIES STRESS WILDFIRE COOPERATION: Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke and Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue signed a memorandum Friday in Idaho emphasizing the importance of interagency cooperation ahead of what they said is anticipated to be a "challenging" wildfire season. Zinke also spent time with the smokejumpers, who parachute into remote areas to fight fires, and he participated in meetings on forest management at the state Capitol with Perdue, Gov. Butch Otter and Sen. Jim Risch.

REGS UNDER THE MICROSCOPE: Trump's OMB has dramatically ramped up the number of EPA regulations its reviewing and has begun taking lots more meetings to gather input from interested parties, Pro's Alex Guillén reports in Energy Regulation Watch. Early proposals now under review include the 2018 Renewable Fuel Standard proposal, as well as a proposed repeal of the Obama-era Waters of the U.S. rule.

Meet your (rule) maker: OMB has meetings scheduled this week the American Chemistry Council, the Environmental Working Group, and the Environmental Defense Fund on EPA's rule

that will detail how the agency prioritizes chemical risk evaluations, part of the revised Toxic Substances Control Act. That follows four meetings Friday on the 2018 RFS rule.

MOVER, SHAKER: John Giordano, who served as deputy general counsel on Donald Trump's transition team as well as on the Energy Department landing team, has joined Archer & Greiner as a partner in the Philadelphia office. He is not planning to register to lobby, according to a spokeswoman for the firm (h/t POLITICO Influence).

CONGRATS: Albert McGartland, director of EPA's National Center for Environmental Economics, is the first-ever federal government economist to be named a fellow of the Association of Environmental and Resource Economists. The honor recognizes contributions to advancing environmental and resource economics.

QUICK HITS

— Energy's Perry having blast running agency he vowed to kill. AP.

— Merkel's Chief of Staff Says EU to Join China, India on Climate. Bloomberg.

— South Korea plans energy U-turn away from coal, nuclear. Reuters.

— Woman seeks release before pipeline protest shooting trial. AP.

— Trouble brews for OPEC as expensive deep-sea oil turns cheap. Bloomberg.

— How G.O.P. Leaders Came to View Climate Change as Fake Science. New York Times.

— Once-secret records reveal pattern of costly mistakes at troubled nuclear project. The State.

HAPPENING THIS WEEK

MONDAY

2:00 p.m. — Briefing on the national security implications of climate change, The Environmental and Energy Study Institute, the Henry M. Jackson Foundation and the Center for Climate and Security, 334 Cannon

2:00 p.m. — "The Future of Mobility: A Fireside Chat with Bill Ford," The Atlantic Council, 1030 15th Street NW, 12th Floor

TUESDAY

9:30 a.m. — Hearing to examine various nominations, Senate Energy and Natural Resources, 366 Dirksen

12:00 p.m. — "Achieving a High-Performance Built Environment: Findings and

Recommendations from the Consultative Council," High Performing Building Coalition, 122 Cannon

WEDNESDAY

8:45 a.m. — "Energy Security in Central & Eastern Europe: New Challenges and Opportunities," Atlantic Council, 1030 15th Street NW

9:30 a.m. — "Review of the FY2018 Budget Request for the U.S. Forest Service," Senate Appropriations Interior, EPA and Related Agencies Subcommittee, Dirksen 124

10:00 a.m. — Hearing to examine three NRC and one EPA nomination, Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, 406 Dirksen

10:00 a.m. — "Energy Opportunities in North America," House Foreign Affairs Committee's Western Hemisphere Subcommittee, 2172 Rayburn

10:00 a.m. — "Oversight on the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement's Abandoned Mine Lands Program," House Natural Resources Committee's Energy and Mineral Resources Subcommittee, 1324 Longworth

10:30 a.m. — "National Science Foundation Budget Hearing," House Appropriations Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Subcommittee, 2359 Rayburn

2:00 p.m. — House Natural Resources Committee, Indian, Insular and Alaska Native Affairs Subcommittee hearing on various legislation, 1324 Longworth

2:30 p.m. — "Moving into a Second Century of Service: Working to Improve the National Park Service Workplace Environment," Senate Energy Committee's National Parks Subcommittee, 366 Dirksen

2:30 p.m. — "Review of the FY2018 Budget Request for the Nuclear Regulatory Commission," Senate Appropriations Energy and Water Development Subcommittee, Dirksen 138

THURSDAY

9:30 a.m. — House Appropriations Committee's Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Subcommittee holds a hearing on the Interior Department budget, 2007 Rayburn

10:00 a.m. — "Hearing to study cost reductions in emerging energy technologies with a specific focus on how recent trends may affect today's energy landscape," Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, 366 Dirksen

2:00 p.m. — "Oversight Hearing on Burdensome Litigation and Federal Bureaucratic Roadblocks to Manage our Nation's Overgrown, Fire-Prone National Forests," House Natural Resources Federal Lands Subcommittee, 1324 Longworth

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https://www.politicopro.com/tipsheets/morning-energy/2017/06/pruitt-still-wont-clarify-trumps-climate-views-023134

Stories from POLITICO Pro

Pruitt dodges another question on Trump climate change beliefs Back

By Madeline Conway | 06/04/2017 11:26 AM EDT

Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Scott Pruitt again dodged on Sunday when asked whether President Donald Trump believes that climate change is man-made and accused people asking about his position on the issue of trying to create a distraction from the debate around the Paris climate agreement.

Although Pruitt said in an interview with George Stephanopoulos on ABC's "This Week" that Trump has indicated that "the climate changes," he repeatedly avoided answering whether the president believes the scientific consensus that global temperatures are warming due to human activity, namely carbon emissions.

"Frankly, George, I think the whole question is an effort to get it off the point and the issue of whether Paris is good for this country or not," Pruitt said. "And the president has indicated the climate changes."

Trump announced on Thursday that the U.S. intends to exit the Paris accord, a pact reached by more than 190 countries to set targets to reduce carbon emissions to combat climate change.

Trump has previously called climate change a "hoax" manufactured by the Chinese, and after Thursday's announcement, his aides avoided questions about whether he still believes that conspiracy theory.

In an interview with CBS' "Face the Nation" this weekend, U.S. Ambassador to the U.N. Nikki Haley seemed to suggest that Trump does not buy into that theory.

She said Trump believes that the "climate is changing" and that he believes "pollutants" are part of it, though she did not specify whether he believes global warming is primarily caused by human activity.

"The president believes the climate is changing," Haley said. "And he does know that pollutants are a part of that equation."

The former South Carolina governor added: "We've got a president who is going to watch out for the environment. It's what we do, it's who we are."

To view online click here.

Back

EPA's Pruitt basks in Trump glow after Paris pullout Back

By Alex Guillén | 06/02/2017 07:15 PM EDT

Scott Pruitt's victory in vanquishing the Paris climate agreement has given him a status few of his predecessors enjoyed — an EPA chief who is clearly his administration's public face in driving environmental policy.

Pruitt's move into the spotlight comes after weeks of White House infighting over whether to reject the global climate pact, and shows that the former Oklahoma attorney general's got the president's ear on energy and environmental issues despite being a newcomer to Trump's orbit.

Typically, the head of the Environmental Protection Agency toils away crafting air and water regulations, and defending the administration's policies in Congress, while more prominent officials lead the charge on the grand policy vision. Those more high-profile roles went to people like John Kerry, who served as a kind of global climate ambassador when he was Barack Obama's secretary of state, or former Vice Presidents Dick Cheney and Al Gore.

But when President Donald Trump announced the U.S. withdrawal from the Paris agreement Thursday, Pruitt was the one joining him at the podium in the Rose Garden — while Secretary of State Rex Tillerson, who'd wanted to stick with the deal, was nowhere to be seen. Pruitt repeated his victory lap at Friday's White House news briefing, beaming as he jousted with reporters over whether he and Trump accept the reality of climate change.

Pruitt's prominence is a byproduct of how Trump views the Paris deal, former Obama climate negotiator Jonathan Pershing said Friday — through the lens of the U.S. economy, not as a worldwide fight against a common threat.

"It was a domestic agenda and not an international agenda that was dictating the policy" this week, Pershing said. "That's consistent with the way [Trump] characterized it as protecting American jobs. It was not characterized in the terms of American security being at risk because of climate change."

At Friday's news briefing, Pruitt praised Trump once again for the Paris decision, saying he had the courage to withdraw from a pact that would have benefited other countries as the expense of the U.S. economy.

"We owe no apologies to other nations for our environmental stewardship," said Pruitt, who had celebrated his win Thursday night with a dinner with staffers at the French-themed D.C. bistro Le Diplomate.

Tillerson, meanwhile, declined to endorse Trump's move at a separate news appearance Friday, calling it "a policy decision."

Despite months of behind-the-scenes debate over Paris that pitted Pruitt and Trump adviser Steve Bannon against Tillerson, Ivanka Trump and top economic adviser Gary Cohn, Pruitt sought to downplay his own influence over the president, saying he won on the merits.

In an appearance on Fox News on Thursday evening, Pruitt dismissed the idea there had been an epic struggle as "simply legend."

"What happened in this process is what happens with every decision the president makes," Pruitt said. "He had advisers around him informing, equipping, helping him make a decision. The debate was good and strong and meaningful amongst all voices and the president made an informed decision."

But Pruitt has emerged as a power player inside the administration who appears to have the confidence of the president.

"It's all eyes on Pruitt because there's a lot of big issues regarding how the Trump administration addresses climate change," said Nick Loris, an economist at the conservative Heritage Foundation.

Pruitt's prominence is at least partly due to the fact that climate change isn't a top issue in the administration.

"There's just fewer cooks in the kitchen because addressing climate change is clearly not a priority for Trump," Loris said. And given how he fought against the Obama climate agenda while serving as Oklahoma's attorney general, "I'm not surprised he's spreading his wings to the international stage," he added.

Pruitt has already proved himself a successful operator in carrying out Trump's deregulation agenda.

He has had significant early success is pausing several key Obama-era regulations that were still in court, including a sweeping carbon regulation for power plants, ozone pollution limits, and the Waters of the U.S. rule that defines which wetlands, streams and rivers fall under federal rules. The repeal process for those rules could take years, but Pruitt is well positioned to succeed in the task.

And in the meantime, Pruitt has canceled an EPA information request that would have set the stage for methane pollution limits for oil and gas wells, re-opened emissions standards for future vehicles and taken steps to modify other Obama-era regulations.

With his Paris win, Pruitt is positioning himself as the administration's leading voice on the international issues surrounding climate change.

On Fox News, Pruitt downplayed the potential diplomatic harm of the Paris decision, noting that the U.S. pulled out of the Kyoto Protocol in 2001 but weathered criticisms over that as well.

"If you go back and read, in March and April of 2001, the criticisms that was being led against President Bush, you can read the comments from the German chancellor, they're almost identical to the ones today."

However, Bush administration officials at the time found themselves surprised by other nations' strong reactions.

Then-Secretary of State Colin Powell said in 2002 that the "blowback" from Europe "was a sobering experience that everything the American president does has international repercussions." And Condoleezza Rice, at the time George W. Bush's national security adviser, wrote in a 2011 memoir that the Kyoto withdrawal was "a self-inflicted wound that could have been avoided."

Pruitt may soon find out just how angry his international counterparts are.

He will head to Italy on June 11 and 12 for an environmental ministerial meeting connected to the G-7 summit Trump recently attended. Italy, along with Germany and France, said in a statement Thursday that there is no renegotiating the Paris agreement, despite what Trump promised Thursday.

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FERC, DOE, Interior nominees respond to Senate committee questions Back

By Darius Dixon and Annie Snider | 06/02/2017 03:18 PM EDT

President Donald Trump's nominees for FERC and the departments of Energy and Interior have provided the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee with more than 200 pages in response to lawmaker questions, according to records obtained by POLITICO.

Responses submitted by Neil Chatterjee, a nominee for FERC commissioner, can be found here.

Responses submitted by Robert Powelson, another nominee for FERC commissioner, can be found here.

Responses submitted by Dan Brouillette, Trump's pick for deputy Energy secretary, can be found here.

Responses submitted by David Bernhardt, who has been tapped for DOI's No. 2 job, can be

found here.

WHAT'S NEXT: The energy committee is scheduled to vote on all four nominations Tuesday at 9:30 a.m. in Dirksen 366.

To view online click here.

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Interior nominee sidesteps Democrats' ethics demands Back

By Annie Snider and Esther Whieldon | 06/02/2017 05:32 PM EDT

President Donald Trump's nominee for the No. 2 spot at the Interior Department is asking Congress to trust that he will avoid conflicts of interest related to his former lobbying clients, but he stopped short of committing to additional transparency measures Democrats requested.

David Bernhardt, a former lobbyist who has represented oil and gas, agricultural and water supply interests, said he would "fully comply with the ethics agreement" he signed when Trump nominated him as deputy Interior secretary, according to written responses to lawmakers obtained by POLITICO.

Bernhardt said he would recuse himself from matters involving former clients for two years. But he would not say who those clients are or what business they may have before Interior, nor would he agree to regularly notify the committee of where he had recused himself.

The Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee is slated to vote on Bernhardt's nomination Tuesday.

Bernhardt said in his written responses that he does not "anticipate" requesting an ethics waiver, but if he does, will discuss with Interior's designated ethics official "whether such a request should be made public."

Sen. Al Franken (D-Minn.) asked Bernhardt if he would agree to provide the committee with quarterly reports listing issues he had stepped aside from because they involved past clients. Bernhardt declined.

"I will not provide a list, but I will commit to visiting with you as often as you would like," Bernhardt wrote.

Bernhardt was a member of Trump's transition team last fall, when he also worked for the law and lobbying firm Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck, whose clients include the Cadiz water project. The Trump administration delivered a big boost for that project in April when it reopened a legal loophole that could allow it to be built across federal land without going through an environmental review. But Bernhardt said in his written responses that he was not

involved in that or other decisions related to past clients when he was part of the transition, reiterating what he told senators during his confirmation hearing.

The nominee also said he did not believe that the nondisclosure agreement he signed before joining the transition would prevent him from sharing information with Congress — something he had questioned during his confirmation hearing.

But Bernhardt disputed Sen. Maria Cantwell's assertion that he should recuse himself from issues relating to drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Bernhardt represented Alaska in a case against Interior relating to drilling in the refuge.

"I reject the premise of your question, which appears to be that litigation on a particular legal question regarding whether the lawfulness of Department of the Interior actions creates a presumption of permanent partiality on different matters," Bernhardt wrote in his response.

Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke this week ordered the department to assess how much oil and gas could be drilled in a section of the refuge.

On climate change, Sens. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) and Franken each pressed Bernhardt on his stance.

At his confirmation hearing Bernhardt said Interior is going to follow the lead of Trump, who has never acknowledged that human activity is a factor. In his written responses, Bernhardt answered "yes" when asked by Sanders if he agrees that "combustion of fossil fuels contributes to climate change."

Ben Lefebvre contributed this report.

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Back

White House orders agencies to ignore Democrats' oversight requests Back

By Burgess Everett and Josh Dawsey | 06/02/2017 05:11 AM EDT

The White House is telling federal agencies to blow off Democratic lawmakers' oversight requests, as Republicans fear the information could be weaponized against President Donald Trump.

At meetings with top officials for various government departments this spring, Uttam Dhillon, a White House lawyer, told agencies not to cooperate with such requests from Democrats, according to Republican sources inside and outside the administration.

It appears to be a formalization of a practice that had already taken hold, as Democrats have

complained that their oversight letters requesting information from agencies have gone unanswered since January, and the Trump administration has not yet explained the rationale.

The declaration amounts to a new level of partisanship in Washington, where the president and his administration already feels besieged by media reports and attacks from Democrats. The idea, Republicans said, is to choke off the Democratic congressional minorities from gaining new information that could be used to attack the president.

"You have Republicans leading the House, the Senate and the White House," a White House official said. "I don't think you'd have the Democrats responding to every minority member request if they were in the same position."

A White House spokeswoman said the policy of the administration is "to accommodate the requests of chairmen, regardless of their political party." There are no Democratic chairmen, as Congress is controlled by Republicans.

The administration also responds to "all non-oversight inquiries, including the Senate's inquiries for purposes of providing advice and consent on nominees, without regard to the political party of the requester," the spokeswoman said. " Multiple agencies have, in fact, responded to minority member requests. No agencies have been directed not to respond to minority requests."

Republicans said that President Barack Obama's administration was not always quick to respond to them and sometimes ignored them. However, the Obama White House never ordered agencies to stop cooperating with Republican oversight requests altogether, making the marching orders from Trump's aides that much more unusual.

"What I do not remember is a blanket request from the Obama administration not to respond to Republicans," said a former longtime senior Republican staffer.

There are some exceptions to the Trump administration order, particularly from national security agencies, Democrats and Republicans said. Agencies will also comply if a Republican committee chairman joins the Democratic requests, but ranking members' oversight requests are spurned.

Congressional minorities frequently ask questions of the administration intended to embarrass the president or garner a quick headline. And Democrats have fired off requests they surely knew the administration would not answer, such as asking the White House in March to make visitor logs of Trump Tower and Mar-A-Lago publicly available.

But House and Senate lawmakers also routinely fire off much more obscure requests not intended to generate news coverage. And the Trump administration's plans to stonewall Democrats is in many ways unprecedented and could lead to a worsening of the gridlock in Washington.

Austin Evers, a former Obama administration lawyer in the State Department who runs a watchdog group called American Oversight, said the Trump administration has instituted a "dramatic change" in policy from Reagan-era congressional standards in which the government

provided more information to committee chairman but also consistently engaged in oversight with rank-and-file minority members.

"Instructing agencies not to communicate with members of the minority party will poison the well. It will damage relationships between career staffers at agencies and subject matter experts in Congress," Evers said. "One of the reasons you respond to letters from the minority party is to explain yourself. It is to put on the record that even accusations that you find unreasonable are not accurate."

One month ago, Rep. Kathleen Rice (D-N.Y.) and other Democrats sent a letter to the Office of Personnel Management asking for cybersecurity information after it was revealed that millions of people had their identities compromised. The letterasked questions about how cybersecurity officials were hired, and in Rice's view, it "was not a political letter at all."

"The answer we got back is, 'We only speak to the chair people of committees.' We said, 'That's absurd, what are you talking about?'" Rice said in an interview. "I was dumbfounded at their response. I had never gotten anything like that ... The administration has installed loyalists at every agency to keep tabs on what information people can get."

At a House Appropriations hearing in May, Rep. Matt Cartwright (D-Pa.) asked acting General Services Administrator Tim Horne about a briefing House Oversight Committee staffers had received from the GSA, in which they were informed that the "GSA has a new policy only to respond to Republican committee chairmen."

"The administration has instituted a new policy that matters of oversight need to be requested by the committee chair," Horne responded.

In February, Sen. Patty Murray (D-Wash.), and Sen. Ron Wyden (D-Ore.) asked for information on changes to healthcare.gov from the Health and Human Services Department. They're still waiting for an answer. In early May, Murray and six other senators asked the president about why Vivek Murthy was dismissed as surgeon general. There was no response, and her staff said those are just a couple of the requests that have gone unanswered.

"It's no surprise that they would try to prevent Congress from getting the information we need to make sure government is working for the people we represent," Murray said when asked about the lack of cooperation.

The Senate's Homeland Security and Government Accountability Committee, the primary investigator in that chamber, has received some responses from the Trump administration but has seen several letters only signed by Democrats ignored. Sen. Claire McCaskill (D-Mo.) wrote Education Secretary Betsy DeVos asking for help addressing the challenges of rural schools and joined with Sen. Tom Carper (D-Del.) to question the security of Trump's use of a personal cell phone as president. Neither was answered, an aide said.

A senior Democratic aide said that of the Senate Democrats' 225 oversight letters sent to the Trump administration since January asking for information, the vast majority have received no

response.

"When it comes to almost anything we've done at a federal agency, very close to 100 percent of those we haven't heard anything back. And at the White House it's definitely 100 percent," said a second senior Democratic aide. "This is rampant all over committee land."

To view online click here.

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America's CEOs fall out of love with Trump Back

By Ben White and Annie Karni | 06/03/2017 07:19 AM EDT

NEW YORK — The relationship between corporate America and Donald Trump's White House has chilled.

The regular parades of business titans into the West Wing are gone. A gathering of executives led by Blackstone CEO Stephen Schwarzman initially planned for next week fell apart amid scheduling conflicts.

Tesla CEO Elon Musk and Disney CEO Bob Iger quit as outside advisers to President Donald Trump following his rejection of the Paris climate accords. Dozens of other executives also publicly rebuked the White House over the decision, including Goldman Sachs CEO Lloyd Blankfein — a former colleague of many top administration officials — who used his first-ever tweet to criticize the Paris decision, calling it a "setback for the environment and for the U.S.'s leadership position in the world."

Chief executives and senior corporate lobbyists are also dismayed that the administration's big Capitol Hill agenda — including repealing Obamacare and passing massive tax cuts — appears stalled. And the White House is now engaged in a very public fight with itself over how and when to raise the debt limit, a terrifying prospect for Wall Street and the rest of corporate America.

Executives also remain puzzled by regular reports of imminent shakeups in the West Wing, including the possible replacement of chief of staff Reince Priebus.

The result is at least a temporary freeze as CEOs grow skittish about public association with a leader who likes to describe himself as the most business-friendly president ever to sit in the Oval Office. This is especially true for executives at big public companies, who have to take into account how employees and shareholders will respond to interactions with an unpopular and controversial president.

"It's obviously harder for public-facing companies because when the president takes a controversial position on an issue, there's pushback from clients, customers and possibly

shareholders," said Kathryn Wylde, president of the Partnership for New York City, a group that includes many top CEOs.

Wylde noted that it's easier for executives who come out of Trump's world of privately held companies to stay close to the president. "The potential mobilization of employees and customers through social media has made business people wary of getting involved in highly contentious political issues," she said. "For those in private business who are not directly customer facing, it's not so much an issue."

White House officials strongly deny there has been a cooling off. They say the initial flurry of meetings was part of a push intended to set up lines of communication within the first 100 days. More gatherings will occur soon, they say.

"We knew there would be blowback from Paris, but so far it hasn't been that bad," said one senior official who declined to be identified by name. "There will be plenty more of these meetings."

In response to a request for comment on the wave of public critiques from CEOs, a White House spokesman repeated Trump's argument that the Paris accord would slow the U.S. economy. "The President is keeping his promise by working for a new or better deal for America," the spokesman said in a statement.

Defenders of the administration note that CEOs quitting Trump's outside advisory panels thus far are Democrats from blue states like California.

The White House is planning a daylong summit of technology CEOs at the White House for June 19 to discuss modernizing government systems, an effort led by Trump's son-in-law and top adviser Jared Kushner. But Musk has already quit as an outside adviser, and Apple CEO Tim Cook and other tech titans also criticized the Paris decision.

The tech meeting is now seen as a key barometer for whether more CEOs will put distance between themselves and the White House.

One consultant who works to connect CEOs and the White House said there is more concern now among business leaders about attending White House meetings. "It's like a Ponzi scheme — pretending you have people confirmed to get other people to confirm," this person said. "It's a manifestation of the fact that the air is coming out of this balloon quickly because the policy proposals haven't been coordinated with the Hill, the expectation that anything will be done is rapidly dissipating."

From a purely political perspective, the distancing of corporate CEOs may not be especially bad for Trump. He won as a populist railing against corporate influence, specifically singling out Goldman Sachs.

Many of his advisers, including chief strategist Steve Bannon, embrace an image of the president siding with coal miners and against big global companies like Goldman and GE — whose CEO,

Jeff Immelt, also issued a direct critique of Trump's Paris withdrawal on Twitter, though he plans to remain on Trump's manufacturing council and has spoken favorably of the administration's plans on taxes and regulation.

But there are several potential downsides. Alienating corporate executives and lobbyists could reduce Trump's ability to raise money for an eventual reelection campaign and for other Republicans in the upcoming midterms. It could also make pushing through tough legislative items like corporate tax reform harder.

Changing corporate tax law always creates winners and losers, and the White House will need to ensure that any industries that might take an initial hit from any final bill don't organize to stop what could turn out to be the administration's biggest first-term initiative.

"There was that early blitz of meetings with leaders from all different industries, and now that's slowed down a bit," said a senior Washington lobbyist who often visits the West Wing but declined to be identified by name speaking about the White House. "Some of that is natural. But they'll have to do more of them if they want to succeed on health care and taxes, and they have to do both or they are at significant risk in the midterms."

Trump regularly touts himself as a strongly pro-business president focused on creating jobs and speeding up economic growth. But both of those depend in part on corporate confidence in the administration's ability to deliver on taxes and regulation changes.

And if that confidence wanes, the already slowing pace of job creation could decline even more. "If an administration wants something to happen and corporate America doesn't believe in it, it's pretty much dead in the water," said Charles Geisst, a business historian at Manhattan College.

While relations might be at a low moment, executives and their lobbyists are not likely to stay away from the White House for long.

One corporate executive noted that Trump is often swayed by the last person he talks to, so, the executive said, remaining in the president's good graces and keeping up access is critical. The senior lobbyist noted that next week is supposed to be focused on changing financial regulations with the House expected to pass a bill rolling back much of the Dodd-Frank law and Treasury slated to release a report on changing financial laws.

The summer will bring a focus on raising the debt limit, keeping the government open and moving forward on tax reform, all issue critical to corporate America. National Economic Council Director Gary Cohn this week promised to deliver a detailed tax plan to Congress after the August recess.

To view online click here.

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Let kids' climate suit go to trial, judge recommends Back

By Alex Guillén | 05/01/2017 04:21 PM EDT

A federal magistrate judge today said that a group of children seeking to force the federal government to take drastic action on climate change should be allowed to make their case in court.

The Trump administration, backed up by the oil and manufacturing industries, in March asked a judge in the U.S. District Court in Oregon to let them leapfrog her and ask the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals to toss out the case before it goes to trial.

In a 16-page recommendation today, Thomas Coffin, a magistrate judge assisting with the case, recommended that District Court Judge Ann Aiken reject the administration's request. Aiken concluded last year that there were enough questions to merit a trial.

Many of the legal questions are inextricably tied to scientific questions about climate change's causes and risks, as well as the government's past and current efforts to curb greenhouse gases or encourage fossil fuel development, Coffin wrote. A trial would allow the Trump administration and industry groups to present any evidence against climate change and its risks in a public forum, he added.

The children behind the lawsuit argue that the government has violated a public trust doctrine by knowing of climate change for decades but not doing enough to combat the threat. The Obama and Trump administrations have rejected that argument.

The Trump administration could still ask the 9th Circuit to get involved, but officials would have a much harder time if Aiken agrees with Coffin.

WHAT'S NEXT: Judge Aiken must decide whether to agree with Coffin's assessment or give her blessing to the Trump administration's early appeal effort.

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EHS Federal Regulatory Alert

June 16, 2017 - Number 115

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Summaries

AIR
Nevada SIP/Particulate Matter from Fugitive Dust
AIR

Final rule of the EPA amends regulations under 40 CFR 52.1470 to approve revisions to the Clark County Department of Air Quality and Washoe County Health District portions of the Nevada SIP. The revisions address emissions of particulate matter from fugitive dust and wood burning. The rule is effective July 17, 2017. Contact: Christine Vineyard; EPA Region 9; 415-947-4125; vineyard.christine@epa.gov

82 FR 27622 (06/16/2017)

Regulatory Update

AIR
Oil and Natural Gas Sector NSPS/Methane and VOC Emissions
AIR

Proposed rule of the EPA stays for three additional months portions of a June 3, 2016, final rule (81 FR 35824) that amended regulations under 40 CFR 60.17 and 60.5360 through 60.5430 (Subpart OOOO) and adopted regulations under 40 CFR 60.5360a through 60.5499a (Subpart OOOOa) to revise the NSPS for the oil and natural gas sector. The rule stays the effectiveness of the fugitive emissions requirements, the standards for pneumatic pumps at well sites, and the certification by a professional engineer requirements. The agency previously stayed these provisions through Aug. 31, 2017 (82 FR 25730). The additional short-term stay is intended to provide the agency time to finalize a longer-term stay during which the agency plans to reconsider issues related to low-production well sites, technical infeasibility exemptions, new construction known as "greenfield," and alternative means of emission limitation. A concurrent proposed rule addresses the two-year stay. The stay is effective June 16, 2017, and expires Sept. 14, 2017. Hearing requests are due June 21, 2017. Comments are due July 17, 2017. Contact: Peter Tsirigotis; EPA, Sector Policies and Programs Division; 888-627-7764; airaction@epa.gov

82 FR 27641 (06/16/2017)

Regulatory Update

AIR
Oil and Natural Gas Sector NSPS/Methane and VOC Emissions
AIR

Proposed rule of the EPA stays until June 16, 2019, portions of a final rule (81 FR 35824; 06/03/16) that amended regulations under 40 CFR 60.17 and 60.5360 through 60.5430 (Subpart OOOO) and adopted regulations under 40 CFR 60.5360a through 60.5499a (Subpart OOOOa) to revise the NSPS for the oil and natural gas sector. The rule stays the effectiveness of the fugitive emissions requirements, the standards for pneumatic pumps at well sites, and the certification by a professional engineer requirements. The stay is intended to provide the agency time to reconsider issues related to low-production well sites, technical infeasibility exemptions, new construction known as "greenfield," and alternative means of emission limitation. A concurrent rule adds to an existing short-term stay while the two-year is finalized. Hearing requests are due June 21, 2017. Comments are due July 17, 2017. Contact: Peter Tsirigotis; EPA, Sector Policies and Programs Division; 888-627-7764; airaction@epa.gov

82 FR 27645 (06/16/2017)

Regulatory Update

FOOD SAFETY
Compliance Guidelines for Small Meat and Poultry Establishments
FOOD SAFETY

Notice of the Food Safety and Inspection Service announces the availability of two updated compliance guidelines for small and very small meat and poultry establishments. The guidelines address regulatory requirements associated with the destruction of salmonella and other pathogens in ready-to-eat (RTE) products and the control of pathogen growth in heat-treated RTE and not-ready-to-eat products during cooling and hot-holding. The guidelines also contain time-temperature tables and cooling options. Comments are due Aug. 15, 2017. Contact: Roberta Wagner; FSIS, Office of Policy and Program Development; 202-205-0495

82 FR 27680 (06/16/2017)

Regulatory Update

FOOD SAFETY
Eligibility of the People's Republic of China to Export Poultry to the U.S.
FOOD SAFETY

Proposed rule of the Food Safety and Inspection Service amends regulations under 9 CFR 381.196 to add the People's Republic of China (PRC) to the list of countries eligible to export poultry and poultry products to the U.S. The rule specifies that the PRC is eligible to export slaughtered poultry, its parts, or other products, processed in certified PRC establishments. The rule also specifies that such products must comply with all other applicable U.S. requirements and are subject to re-inspection at U.S. ports of entry. Comments are due Aug. 15, 2017. Contact: Daniel Engeljohn; FSIS, Office of Policy and Program Development; 202-205-0495

82 FR 27625 (06/16/2017)

Regulatory Update

FOOD SAFETY
Inspection Coverage at Siluriformes Fish Establishments
FOOD SAFETY

Notice of the Food Safety and Inspection Service announces the extension for the comment period for a May 17, 2017, notice (82 FR 22609) regarding the proposed adjustment of inspection coverage at official establishments that slaughter Siluriformes fish, including catfish, from all hours of operation to once per production shift, beginning Sept. 1, 2017. The proposed change reduces the initial frequency of inspection coverage provided for in the Dec. 2, 2015, final rule (80 FR 75590) that established a mandatory inspection program for Siluriformes fish. The extension is in response to a request from a consumer advocacy organization. Comments now are due July 17, 2017. Contact: Rachel Edelstein; FSIS, Office of Policy and Program Development; 202-205-0495

82 FR 27679 (06/16/2017)

Regulatory Update

GENERAL ENVIRONMENT AND SAFETY
Basic Energy Sciences Advisory Committee Meeting
GENERAL ENVIRONMENT AND SAFETY

Notice of the Department of Energy, Office of Science, announces a meeting of the Basic Energy Sciences Advisory Committee (BESAC). The agenda includes updates from the Office of Science and the Office of Basic Energy Sciences and reports concerning the next generation electrical energy storage basic research needs workshop and the catalysis-science to transform energy technologies basic research needs workshop. The agenda also includes discussions concerning quantum information science, neuromorphic computing, new BESAC charges, and a report from the Chemical Sciences, Geosciences, and Biosciences Committee of Visitors. The meeting is scheduled for July 13-14, 2017, in Rockville, Md. Comments are requested, but a due date is not specified. Contact: Katie Runkles; DOE, Office of Basic Energy Sciences; 301-903-6529; katie.runkles@science.doe.gov

82 FR 27703 (06/16/2017)

Regulatory Update

GENERAL ENVIRONMENT AND SAFETY
California/Defense Distribution Center San Joaquin
GENERAL ENVIRONMENT AND SAFETY

Notice of the Department of Defense, Defense Logistics Agency, announces the availability of the finding of no significant impact for the environmental assessment regarding implementation of the real property master plan (RPMP) at the Defense Distribution Center, in San Joaquin, Calif. The RPMP, which is the proposed action, includes the siting and design of energy-efficient sustainable building and infrastructure to supplement and replace existing structures. The notice

summarizes the results of the EA, including those of the no-action alternative, and specifies the agency's decision to implement the RPMP and its component plans. Contact: Ira Silverberg; Defense Logistics Agency; 703-767-0705; ira.silverberg@dla.mil

82 FR 27701 (06/16/2017)

Regulatory Update

GENERAL ENVIRONMENT AND SAFETY
Consumer Product Safety Commission/Reducing Regulatory Burdens
GENERAL ENVIRONMENT AND SAFETY

Notice of the Consumer Product Safety Commission announces a request for information regarding ways to potentially reduce burdens and costs of existing rules, regulations, or practices without increasing the risk of deaths or injuries to consumers. Submissions should include information and data in support of suggestions and, as appropriate, answers to questions posed in the commission's April 2016 Plan for Retrospective Review of Existing Rules. Comments are due Sept. 30, 2017. Contact: DeWane Ray; CPSC; 301-504- 7547; jray@cpsc.gov

82 FR 27636 (06/16/2017)

Regulatory Update

GENERAL ENVIRONMENT AND SAFETY
Environmental Impact Statements
GENERAL ENVIRONMENT AND SAFETY

Notice of the EPA announces the availability of environmental impact statements filed June 5-9, 2017, under 40 CFR 1506.9. Contact: Dawn Roberts; EPA, Office of Federal Activities; 202-564-7146

82 FR 27704 (06/16/2017)

Regulatory Update

GENERAL ENVIRONMENT AND SAFETY
NEPA Environmental Questionnaire and Checklist
GENERAL ENVIRONMENT AND SAFETY

Notice of the Department of Commerce, Office of Facilities and Environmental Quality, announces the submission of a continuing information collection request to the OMB concerning the environmental questionnaire and checklist (Form CD-593). The collection addresses online collection of data from federal financial assistance applicants concerning potential environmental impacts of projects to facilitate department environmental analysis. Comments are due July 17, 2017. Contact: Department of Commerce; 202-395-6881; OIRA_Submission@omb.eop.gov

82 FR 27685 (06/16/2017)

Regulatory Update

GENERAL ENVIRONMENT AND SAFETY
Smart Grid Advisory Committee Meeting
GENERAL ENVIRONMENT AND SAFETY

Notice of the National Institute of Standards and Technology announces a meeting of the Smart Grid Advisory Committee. The agenda includes updates on NIST Smart Grid activities and the intersections with Cyber-Physical Systems program activities. The agenda also includes discussion of the NIST Framework and Roadmap for Smart Grid Interoperability Standards revision and the NIST Smart Grid research program. The meeting is scheduled for Aug. 17-18, 2017, in Gaithersburg, Md. Comments are due Aug. 3, 2017. Contact: Cuong Nguyen; NIST, Smart Grid and Cyber-Physical Systems Program Office; 301-975-2254; cuong.nguyen@nist.gov

82 FR 27692 (06/16/2017)

Regulatory Update

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS TRANSPORTATION
Applications for Special Permits
HAZARDOUS MATERIALS TRANSPORTATION

Notice of the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration announces the receipt of 16 applications for new and modification special permits related to specified hazardous materials transportation regulations under 49 CFR 72 through 180 (nonconsecutive). Comments are due July 17, 2017. Contact: Ryan Paquet; PHMSA, Office of Hazardous Materials Approvals and Permits; 202-366-4535

82 FR 27757 (06/16/2017)

Regulatory Update

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS TRANSPORTATION
Applications for Special Permits
HAZARDOUS MATERIALS TRANSPORTATION

Notice of the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration announces the receipt of 19 applications for new special permits related to specified hazardous materials transportation regulations under 49 CFR 172 through 180 (nonconsecutive). Comments are due July 3, 2017. Contact: Ryan Paquet; PHMSA, Office of Hazardous Materials Approvals and Permits; 202-366-4535

82 FR 27760 (06/16/2017)

Regulatory Update

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS TRANSPORTATION
Applications for Special Permits
HAZARDOUS MATERIALS TRANSPORTATION

Notice of the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration announces the receipt of three applications for modifications of special permits and 13 applications for new special permits related to specified hazardous materials transportation regulations under 49 CFR 171

through 180 (nonconsecutive). Comments are due April 5, 2017. Contact: Ryan Paquet; PHMSA, Office of Hazardous Materials Approvals and Permits; 202-366-4535

82 FR 27759 (06/16/2017)

Regulatory Update

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS TRANSPORTATION
Passenger Motor Carriers/Lease and Interchange of Vehicles
HAZARDOUS MATERIALS TRANSPORTATION

Notice announces the intention of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration to amend regulations under 49 CFR 390 regarding lease and interchange of passenger-carrying commercial motor vehicles (CMVs). The proposed revisions are in response to petitions for reconsideration of a May 27, 2015, final rule (80 FR 30164) and an Oct. 31, 2016, meeting with industry representatives (81 FR 66243; 09/27/2016). The revisions would exclude "chartering," or subcontracting, from the leasing requirements. The revisions also would extend the emergency 48-hour delay in preparing a lease when an event occurs on a passenger-carrying commercial motor vehicle and remove the requirement that passengers actually be on board when the event occurs. A concurrent temporary final rule extends the compliance date for the May 2015 final rule to Jan. 1, 2019. Comments are due July 31, 2017. Contact: Loretta Bitner; FMCSA, Office of Compliance and Enforcement; 202-385-2428; loretta.bitner@dot.gov

82 FR 27768 (06/16/2017)

Regulatory Update

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS TRANSPORTATION
Passenger Motor Carriers/Lease and Interchange of Vehicles
HAZARDOUS MATERIALS TRANSPORTATION

Temporary final rule of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration amends regulations under 40 CFR 390.300T to further extend the compliance date for a May 27, 2015, final rule (80 FR 30164) regarding the lease and interchange of passenger-carrying commercial motor vehicles (CMVs). The 2015 rule requires identification of the motor carrier operating a passenger-carrying CMV that is responsible for compliance with all applicable federal standards and requires that a lessor surrender control of the CMV for the full term of the lease or temporary exchange of CMVs and drivers. The compliance date was previously extended for one year in a March 16, 2016, temporary rule (81 FR 13998) and is now being extended for an additional year. A concurrent notice announces the intention of the FMCSA to amend regulations under 40 CFR 390 in response to petitions for reconsideration and an Oct. 31, 2016, meeting with industry representatives (81 FR 66243; 09/27/2016). Compliance now is required by Jan. 1, 2019. The extension is effective June 16, 2017. Contact: Loretta Bitner; FMCSA, Office of Compliance and Enforcement; 202-385-2400; loretta.bitner@dot.gov

82 FR 27766 (06/16/2017)

Regulatory Update

OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH
Coal Mine Refuse Piles and Impoundment Structures

OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH

Notice announces the intention of the Mine Safety and Health Administration to seek OMB approval for a continuing information collection request regarding recordkeeping and reporting requirements for coal mine refuse piles and impoundment structures (30 CFR 77, Subpart C). The collection addresses standards for the design, construction, and maintenance of such structures; certifications; inspections; and methods of abandonment. Comments are due Aug. 15, 2017. Contact: Sheila McConnell; MSHA, Office of Standards, Regulations and Variances; 202-693-9440

82 FR 27730 (06/16/2017)

Regulatory Update

OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH
Coal Mines/Examination and Testing of Electrical Equipment, High-Voltage Longwalls
OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH

Notice announces the intention of the Mine Safety and Health Administration to seek OMB approval for a continuing information collection request concerning examination and testing of electrical equipment, including examination, testing, and maintenance of high-voltage longwalls (30 CFR 75 and 77) for coal mines. The collection addresses recordkeeping requirements for electrical maintenance programs by mine operators to address minimum requirements for examinations of electrical equipment, high-voltage circuit breakers, low- and medium-voltage circuits, and tests and calibrations of automatic circuit interrupting devices. Comments are due Aug. 15, 2017. Contact: Sheila McConnell; MSHA, Office of Standards, Regulations, and Variances; 202-693-9440

82 FR 27728 (06/16/2017)

Regulatory Update

OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH
Mine Accident Recordkeeping and Reporting
OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH

Notice announces the intention of the Mine Safety and Health Administration to seek OMB approval for a continuing information collection request concerning requirements to report mine accidents, injuries, and illnesses within 10 working days of any such incident (30 CFR 50.20) and requirements to file quarterly mine employment and coal production (30 CFR 50.30). The requirements apply to all mine operators and independent contractors working on mine property. The reports are used to improve agency safety and health enforcement programs, focus agency education and training efforts, and establish technical assistance activities in mine safety and health. Comments are due Aug. 15, 2017. Contact: Sheila McConnell; MSHA, Office of Standards, Regulations, and Variances; 202-693-9440; MSHA.information.collections@dol.gov

82 FR 27727 (06/16/2017)

Regulatory Update

OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH

Transportation Workplace Drug and Alcohol Testing
OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH

Notice of the Department of Transportation announces the submission of a continuing information collection request to the OMB regarding procedures for transportation workplace drug and alcohol testing programs (49 CFR 40). The collection includes alcohol testing form DOT F 1380 that provides the employee's name, the type of test taken, the date of the test, and the name of the employer. The collection also includes management information system form DOT F 1385 used by DOT agencies and the U.S. Coast Guard to provide employer specific drug and alcohol testing information, such as the reason for the test and the cumulative number of test results for the negative, positive, and refusal tests. Comments are due July 17, 2017. Contact: Bohdan Baczara; DOT, Office of Drug and Alcohol Policy and Compliance; 202-366-3784; bohdan.baczara@dot.gov

82 FR 27762 (06/16/2017)

Regulatory Update

TOXIC SUBSTANCES
Tert-Butanol and ETBE Draft Assessment Toxicological Reviews
TOXIC SUBSTANCES

Notice of the EPA announces meetings of the Science Advisory Board Chemical Assessment Advisory Committee Augmented for the Review of the Draft Ethyl Tertiary Butyl Ether (ETBE) and tert-Butyl Alcohol (tert-butanol) Assessments. The first meeting agenda includes discussion of the development of the draft assessments and draft charge questions. It is scheduled for July 11, 2017, via teleconference. The second meeting agenda includes a peer review of the assessments and is scheduled for Aug. 15-17, in Arlington, Va. Comments are due June 30 and Aug. 8, 2017, for the teleconference and meeting, respectively. Contact: Shaunta Hill-Hammond; EPA; 202-564-3343; hillhammond.shaunta@epa.gov

82 FR 27703 (06/16/2017)

Regulatory Update

WATER
Army Corps of Engineers Environmental Advisory Board Meeting
WATER

Notice of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers announces a meeting of the Chief of Engineers, Environmental Advisory Board. The agenda includes an update on implementation of past board recommendations and how the host USACE district is implementing the environmental operating principles. The agenda also includes discussions and presentations on ongoing work plan efforts and future tasks, such as invasive species, aging infrastructure and aquatic ecosystem integrity, and monitoring and adaptive management. The meeting is scheduled for July 12, 2017, in Traverse City, Mich. Comments are due July 5, 2017. Contact: Mindy Simmons; USACE; 202-761-4127; Mindy.M.Simmons@usace.army.mil

82 FR 27700 (06/16/2017)

Regulatory Update

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EHS Federal Regulatory Alert

To: Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
From: EPA Press Office
Sent: Mon 9/18/2017 2:15:01 PM
Subject: EXAMINER: EPA needs to stick to its knitting

THE WASHINGTON EXAMINER

EPA Needs To Stick To Its Knitting

Editorial
September 18, 2017
http://www.washingtonexaminer.com/epa-needs-to-stick-to-its-knitting/article/2634483

Barack Obama decided that the 1992 Clean Air Act gave the Environmental Protection Agency the authority to force states to regulate carbon dioxide emissions from power plants.

He also expanded the Clean Water Act with a regulation called "Waters of the United States," which aimed to give the EPA regulatory control over land if sometimes it holds standing water.

The running theme of the Obama EPA was expanding the agency's reach and multiplying its responsibilities. This campaign was repeatedly halted by courts, but it has threatened to erode liberty and make life more expensive for families, farmers, and companies.

But the most tangible consequence of the EPA's mission creep has been the neglect of its core functions.

Trump's EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt laid out Obama's legacy in a recent interview with the Washington Examiner. "He left us with more Superfund sites than when he came in," Pruitt said, referring to contaminated lands which the EPA is supposed to be remediating. "He had Gold King and Flint, Michigan," Pruitt went on, referring to the massive 2015 spill of mine waste into the Animas and San Juan Rivers. Obama also left "air quality standards 40 percent of the country in nonattainment," Pruitt added.

The problem? Obama's EPA wouldn't stick to its knitting. Pruitt aptly described the EPA's mindset under Obama: "We think we just ought to re-imagine authority because you know what? We don't know if people are going to pass regulations or states are going to do their jobs."

Pruitt promises to return the EPA to its proper mission and to limit its activities to those actually prescribed by Congress. Will Pruitt's EPA address greenhouse gas emissions? Obama justified his Clean Power Plan by asserting the urgency of the issue. But the executive's belief that an issue is important doesn't give the executive branch the power to address an issue.

The EPA has only the power Congress has given it. Repeatedly, Obama tried to get Congress to pass climate legislation. Repeatedly, he failed. This should have been taken as a sign that there is no democratic will for it. But Obama took these failures exactly the wrong way, deciding that if Congress won't act, he would act on his own.

This is like a soldier deciding that if his officers won't give him permission to shoot, he'll just have to give himself the order to fire.

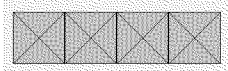
On climate, Pruitt says the relevant question is "what tools are in the toolbox of this agency to deal with CO2?" Neither Pruitt nor Trump are allowed to put tools in there. Only Congress can. "We're not going to simply just make up our authority," Pruitt said.

Doing exactly what you are called to do by the proper authorities is not a very exciting mission. But such is the lot of conservatism. Executive agencies are role-players, and even the president doesn't get to determine their role. The Constitution is very clear that Congress alone has that power.

We applaud Pruitt's mission of restoring the EPA to its proper shape and size. And we hope he has the humility, the diligence, and the skill to pull it off, for the sake of the Constitution, the economy, and the environment.

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To: Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
From: Morning Energy
Sent: Thur 6/8/2017 2:06:45 PM
Subject: POLITICO's Morning Energy: Zinke orders review of sage grouse management plans — Democrats boil over at oversight obstruction — Outgoing EEI official looks at power market challenges

By Anthony Adragna | 06/08/2017 10:00 AM EDT

With help from Darius Dixon, Alex Guillén and Annie Snider

EVERYBODY'S HEARD ABOUT THIS BIRD: Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke will release a secretarial order this morning opening a review of sage grouse conservation plans across 11 Western states, Pro's Esther Whieldon reports . Though it may look like a humble bird, it's a huge deal for oil and gas interests. Zinke said governors have complained that the management plans set under the Obama administration hinder their ability to develop resources or use the lands for other activities. The order calls for the government within 60 days to report back on its examination of the 98 existing land use management plans for parts that should be tweaked or rescinded.

But former Interior Secretary Sally Jewell defended the existing management plans on Wednesday, telling POLITICO they were "designed to be very flexible and to allow the states and the federal land management agencies to work together" on both energy development and conservation. The Western Energy Alliance said it wasn't worried reworking the plans could take years. "What risk is there?" Kathleen Sgamma, the group's president, said. "Development is at practically a standstill already in sage grouse habitat." But conservation interests worried the review could do significant damage to existing efforts to protect the sage grouse habitat. "The review appears to be a thinly-veiled and unnecessary attempt to open up important habitat to oil and gas drilling, jeopardizing the important balance and flexibility offered in the existing plans," said Jim Lyons, a senior fellow at the Center for American Progress and former Interior official.

COMEY'S NOT THE ONLY GAME IN TOWN: Zinke faces his former House colleagues this morning at 9:30 a.m. at the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies, where he'll have to defend the Trump administration's proposed $1.1 billion, or 10 percent, cut in his agency's budget. Watch the hearing, slated for Rayburn 2007, here. Ahead of his appearance, the Vet Voice Foundation sent a letter to the committee voicing deep opposition to the proposed cuts.

WELCOME TO THURSDAY! I'm your host Anthony Adragna, and every single senator has a four-year degree of some sort. For today: There is one former Cabinet secretary serving in the U.S. Senate. Who is it? Send your tips, energy gossip and comments to aadragna@politico.com, or follow us on Twitter @AnthonyAdragna, @Morning_Energy, and @POLITICOPro.

THE INNOVATION ISSUE: How should Washington think about innovation? What's its role in the economy-and what does it take for government to foster new technologies that help the whole nation, not just a favored few? In a month long Special Report, **The Agenda** takes a deep look at the surprising new politics of innovation, and ideas for how to drive it in a new era. In this package, you'll read about how AOL founder Steve Case became the first call for

Congresspeople who want to bring innovation to the heartland; a critical look at Challenge.gov , the federal government's prize competition designed to spur innovation; and the surprisingly innovative history of the U.S. Post Office, which was long on the forefront of technology before turning into a lesson in what *not* to do. Read the entire package here.

DEMOCRATS BASH OVERSIGHT IMPEDIMENTS: Numerous Democratic senators used a hearing considering OMB nominees to bash the Trump administration's formal memo allowing federal agencies to ignore oversight requests from minority-party lawmakers. "I will punch above my weight on this," top Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Democrat Claire McCaskill said. "The notion that we're going to partisan corners on oversight is disgusting." Yet, Deputy OMB Director nominee Russell Vought declined multiple times to guarantee he would respond to Democratic requests, prompting Heidi Heitkamp to call his answer "absolutely outrageous" and "almost disqualifying." Senate Democrats later Wednesday released a compilation of more than 100 oversight requests the Trump administration has ignored.

Lack of responsiveness to oversight requests has been especially pronounced from EPA to Senate EPW. An unusually fired-up ranking member Tom Carper said if roles were reversed and a Democratic administration ignored GOP requests, "You'd shut the place down. We probably ought to do that as well." He later told ME he would seek a commitment from all EPA officials coming before EPW to respond to all oversight requests (as DHS Secretary John Kelly promised during Tuesday congressional testimony). "Until members of this committee receive adequate responses from [EPA Administrator Scott] Pruitt so that we can all exercise our oversight responsibilities, I feel I have no choice but to oppose the consideration of any additional EPA nominees," Carper said in a statement late Wednesday after meeting with Trump's pick for agency enforcement chief, Susan Bodine.

For her part, law professor and Trump's pick to serve as the country's regulatory gatekeeper Neomi Rao said she is "committed to working with this committee on their requests." Along with the hearing, eight former administrators of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs backed Rao's nomination in a letter, including Obama's most recent official, Howard Shelanski.

TAKE A GLANCE! Pro's Darius Dixon sits down with retiring David Owens, a top executive with the Edison Electric Institute, on what's next for the power business and what looming challenges lie on the horizon. "Our members are totally focused on a clean energy pathway, irrespective of the Paris agreement," he said. "Customers are driving it. Customers want it."

GREENS SLAM DOJ DECISION TO END 'THIRD-PARTY' PAYMENTS: Environmental groups are slamming Attorney General Jeff Sessions' Thursday decision to stop requiring violators of laws like the Clean Air Act to pay for projects unrelated to the violation, a practice known as "third party settlements." Restitution funds should go to victims or taxpayers, "not to bankroll third-party special interest groups or the political friends of whoever is in power," Sessions said. Green groups quickly lashed out, saying the move will only reduce spending on environmental clean-ups. "This radical reversal of a decades-old policy could deprive communities of direct assistance for improvements in air and water quality, and is nothing more than an effort by the Trump administration to let companies like Fiat-Chrysler and Mercedes off

the hook," said Pat Gallagher, director of the Sierra Club's Environmental Law Program. Environmental Integrity Project Executive Director Eric Schaeffer, meanwhile, said Session's letter is similar to a House bill backed by conservative groups. "It's disheartening to see the Justice Department reading from their playbook."

For example: One recent prominent example is the last year's record $14.7 billion settlement with Volkswagen over its diesel emissions cheating scandal included $2.7 billion for projects to reduce pollution in areas where the cars had been, as well as $2 billion for electric vehicle infrastructure. However, the payments are typically much smaller than that. Just last week the Cause of Action Institute, a free-market group, urged EPA to re-open an August settlement reached with Harley-Davidson over illegal after-market defeat devices because it included $3 million to the American Lung Association's Northeast chapter to pay for upgrading wood-burning appliances.

GETTING FASTER AT THIS: Just one day after announcing his selection, the White House formally sent Jeffrey Bossert Clark's nomination to run DOJ's Environment and Natural Resources Division to the Senate.

Moving on up! North Dakota District Court Judge Ralph Erickson went out on a limb last year when he issued the first stay of the Obama administration's controversial Waters of the U.S. rule, just hours before it was set to go into effect, even as several other district courts denied stay requests or ruled that they didn't have jurisdiction over the issue. Now, the Fargo-based George W. Bush appointee, known to colleagues as a "Chamber of Commerce Republican," is being nominated by Trump for the 8th Circuit Court of Appeals. Erickson's 13-state hold on the rule helped pave the path for opponents of WOTUS to ultimately win a nationwide injunction from the 6th Circuit Court of Appeals that's still in place today.

FEINSTEIN WARNS OF 'FAILING' NUCLEAR...EVERYTHING: Sen. Dianne Feinstein , the top Democrat on energy appropriations, issued a lengthy broadside against a range of nuclear issues during a budget hearing for the Nuclear Regulatory Commission Wednesday afternoon. She reiterated her longstanding concerns about the delayed and over-budget MOX project in South Carolina - which even Trump's fiscal 2018 budget calls for axing, a decision in line with the Obama administration-before she rattled off a list of the nuclear industry sore spots. Between the waste problem, the economic woes of power reactors in the electricity markets, and a Westinghouse bankruptcy that has undermined nuclear projects in the South, the California Democrat declared: "Is this going to be a failing industry?" There are dozens of sites where nuclear waste is stored with nowhere yet to go, Feinstein noted. "Maybe that's a symptom of what's happening to the industry ... What I see is a big downhill slope for the [nuclear] industry." She supports temporary waste storage facilities, however, Feinstein demurred when reporters later asked whether she would accept having fiscal 2018 funding for reviving the Yucca Mountain project.

Energy spending chairman Sen. Lamar Alexander said the bipartisan quartet of senators who have worked on comprehensive nuclear waste legislation - most, since 2011 - plan to reintroduce the bill again this year. Timing? TBD. The Tennessee Republican also said that he plans to chat with Energy Secretary Rick Perry later this month about what the Energy Department can do

with existing authorities to move ahead with a privately run nuclear waste storage site.

DAM THOSE SEA LIONS: California sea lions might look sweet and innocent to tourists at a San Francisco pier, but to endangered Columbia River salmon, they are conniving killers. In recent years, the mammals have been swimming up the Columbia River in record numbers to feast on endangered salmon, steelhead and other native fish species as they move up the fish ladder at Bonneville Dam. As dam customers and local communities invest heavily in efforts to save the fish species, lawmakers are pushing to allow wildlife managers to kill more of the seafood-loving sea lions, with a measure from Rep. Jamie Herrera-Butler getting a hearing before a House Natural Resources Committee panel this morning.

But some environmentalists and Native American tribes with fishing rights in the basin argue that the measure is trying to fix the wrong problem; the real problem, they say, is four dams upstream on the Snake River that advocates have long eyed for removal. "You can kill all the sea lions you want to - and we have already been killing the most problematic sea lions - but unless we summon the courage to act on the best scientific information and finally address the very significant impacts of the hydroelectric dams on our salmon, they will not come back," Gary Dorr, chairman of the Nez Perce Tribe General Council will testify.

MAPPING DRINKING WATER CONTAMINTS: The Environmental Working Group is out this morning with new research and an interactive map showing the 47 locations across the country where toxic chemicals known as PFCs or PFASs have been detected in drinking water. All told, the group estimates the contaminants - used in Teflon manufacturing and firefighting foam - are in 15 million Americans' drinking water at some level. EPA has told local water officials that levels of PFCs above 70 parts per billion are likely unsafe, but has issued no federal regulation for the contaminants.

INHOFE WARY OF SLOW EPA SELECTIONS: Former EPW Chairman Jim Inhofe told ME Wednesday the White House has been "too slow" in selecting people for various roles at EPA and elsewhere. "We need to get a lot of people [more staff]," the Oklahoma Republican said. "Not just Pruitt." He added he's been very pleased with the administration's efforts to sell the decision to leave the Paris agreement.

McCAIN THINKS PARIS PULLOUT BAD FOR U.S. LEADERSHIP: Count Sen. John McCain among the Republican lawmakers worried about the broader impacts pulling out of the Paris agreement may have on U.S. international efforts. Asked what leaving says about the country's leadership on tough international problems, McCain told reporters: "Not much." He also said the country's international leadership was stronger under former President Barack Obama than Trump.

And there's more concern in private: Sen. Brian Schatz told ME many of his GOP colleagues are privately "terrified" about the message leaving the climate deal sends to the rest of the world. "Everyone is really worried," he said. "This was not a purely climate-related decision. This is a geopolitical miscalculation that diminished our standing."

MAIL CALL! COALITION URGES ENERGY RESEARCH FUNDING: An array of

business and energy groups sent a letter to top congressional Appropriators urging strong federal support for energy research and development programs. "Continued support for investments in energy research programs across DOE can accelerate innovation and secure America's competitive advantage at this critical moment for our energy and economic future," the letter, signed by entities including Exelon, Shell, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the Nuclear Energy Institute and the Consumer Energy Alliance, says.

SENATORS FIGHT ANOTHER PROPOSED CUT: A bipartisan group of more than 20 senators sent a letter to Perry voicing opposition to a Trump budget provision calling for the auction of transmission assets of Power Marketing Administrations. "There are improvements that can and should be made to the operations of some PMAs, but the dismantling of them is simply not sound governmental policy," the letter, led by Energy and Natural Resources ranking member Maria Cantwell, said. Side note: ME can't remember the last letter signed by both John Barrasso and Martin Heinrich.

FIGHT HEARTLAND'S CLIMATE MATERIALS IN SCHOOLS: Four Senate Democrats - Sheldon Whitehouse, Elizabeth Warren, Brian Schatz and Ed Markey - asked Education Secretary Betsy DeVos in a letter Wednesday whether her agency played any role in the distribution of materials disputing the scientific consensus on climate change to 300,000 public school science teachers across the country. "It is our sincere hope that neither White House staff nor Department of Education officials have turned to the Heartland Institute on the issues of climate change and climate science, or had any role in this mailing to educators," they wrote.

FORUM LOOKS AT BENEFITS OF MONUMENTS: On the 111th anniversary of the Antiquities Act today, top House Natural Resources Democrat Raul Grijalva, Nydia Velázquez and Tim Walz , convene a public forum examining the "recreational, preservation and economic benefits of national monument designations" under that statute. It comes just days before Zinke is expected to offer his perspective to Trump on how the administration should handle the hotly contested Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante national monuments.

ILLINOIS DEMOCRATS PUSH RAUNER ON PARIS: Eleven Illinois House Democrats, led by Mike Quigley, sent a letter to Republican Gov. Bruce Rauner urging him to formally commit the state to meeting existing emissions reduction goals outlined in the Paris Agreement. "Because it is good for the residents of Illinois and because it is the right thing to do, we feel that the State of Illinois should publicly commit to do its part to meet the existing Paris Agreement goals with or without formal U.S. participation in the Agreement, and to subsequently take actions to do so," they wrote.

CONGRATS: The Standing Rock Sioux, who fought for months against the Dakota Access pipeline, will today at 11:30 a.m. receive the Wallace Global Fund's inaugural Henry A. Wallace Award commending those that stand up to political power. David Archambault II, the tribe's chairman, will speak about how the "significant financial award coupled with investments in renewable energy" will allow them to decrease reliance on fossil fuels. More details here after 11:30 a.m.

QUICK HITS

- Jerry Brown in China with a climate message to the world: Don't follow America's lead. Los Angeles Times.

- North Korea: Trump withdrawal from Paris agreement 'height of egoism'. USA Today.

- Mayor Emanuel signs order committing Chicago to Paris Agreement, welcomes global leaders to Chicago. WLS.

- The Mayors of Pittsburgh and Paris: We Have Our Own Climate Deal. New York Times.

- U.S. Oil Exports Double, Reshaping Vast Global Markets. Wall Street Journal.

- Investors expect to meet with Exxon on climate-impact report. Reuters.

THAT'S ALL FOR ME!

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Subject: POLITICO's Morning Energy, presented by the Nuclear Energy Institute: Decoding Team Trump's murky signals on Paris deal — Climate VIPs gather on side of U.N. General Assembly — Seven monuments targeted in Zinke's review

By Anthony Adragna | 09/18/2017 10:00 AM EDT

With help from Eric Wolff and Emily Holden

PARIS POSITION AS CLEAR AS MUD: A weekend full of conflicting signals and mixed messages culminated with President Donald Trump's administration reiterating its intention to withdraw from the Paris climate agreement "unless we can re-enter on terms that are more favorable to our country." Confusion first emerged Saturday when Everett Eissenstat, the No. 2 official on the National Economic Council, made comments at a Montreal meeting that some diplomats interpreted as signaling the U.S. might remain in the international deal while revising Obama's climate pledge. But White House and international officials told POLITICO's Nancy Cook, Andrew Restuccia and Kalina Oroschakoff those comments were misconstrued. "This is being misreported. Unhelpfully so I think," a non-U.S. attendee of the meeting said of the comments.

Administration officials stressed that view Sunday. National Security Adviser H.R. McMaster called The Wall Street Journal's original report on Saturday that the U.S. was considering remaining in the Paris agreement a "false report" on "Fox News Sunday," POLITICO's Theodoric Meyer reports. But Secretary of State Rex Tillerson was less adamant on CBS' " Face the Nation ," saying there was a possibility the Trump administration could stick with it if they can negotiate what they deem a better deal: "The president said he is open to finding those conditions where we can remain engaged with others on what we all agree is still a challenging issue," he said. "The plan is for [National Economic Council] Director [Gary] Cohn to consider other ways in which we can work with partners in the Paris climate accord. We want to be productive, we want to be helpful."

It's worth noting: Italy, France and Germany have said the underlying framework of the Paris agreement won't be renegotiated, but multiple experts have said the U.S. could weaken its voluntary emissions reduction pledge - nationally determined contribution in diplomatic parlance - whenever it wants. Or in the words of Democratic Connecticut Sen. Chris Murphy : "Dear White House, READ THE AGREEMENT. It already allows each country to set their own terms of compliance. So we good? Back in?"

Reminder: The U.S. cannot fully withdraw from the Paris agreement until Nov. 4, 2020, though the State Department announced last month it would continue participating in international climate change negotiations.

COHN TALKS CLIMATE TODAY: As world leaders and diplomats descend on New York this week for the United Nations General Assembly, Cohn meets today with international officials on a host of issues, including U.S. engagement on climate change. A readout from the

ministerial meeting on climate action held over the weekend in Montreal is available here.

Environmental delegation cut: Tillerson won't send the State Department's bureau on oceans and the environment to participate in traditional meetings during the United Nations General Assembly, the New York Times reports. That comes as he's reduced the overall number of officials participating in the sessions by about half from last year.

CLIMATE BIG SHOTS MEET ON THE SIDELINES: Former Secretary of State John Kerry convenes a two-day climate change summit at Yale beginning today with a host of VIPs. A session at 11 a.m. features former Energy Secretary Ernest Moniz, Obama climate czar Heather Zichal and chief climate negotiator Jonathan Pershing discussing the future of energy. Then, former George W. Bush Treasury Secretary Hank Paulson and GE's Jeff Immelt are among the panelists discussing the role of the private sector in addressing the problem at 2:30 p.m.

California Gov. Jerry Brown plans to spend the week highlighting opportunities for cities and states to curb emissions, regardless of the administration's stance. Today he'll speak alongside Tom Steyer and then with France's Minister of Ecology Nicholas Hulot and World Economic Forum head of industries Cheryl Martin. The 15 states that comprise the Climate Alliance, which was formed after Trump's decision to withdraw from the Paris deal, are expected announce the greenhouse gas levels they hope to achieve by 2025.

Brown also launched the America's Pledge initiative along with former New York mayor Michael Bloomberg. "We're not where we need to be, we're not moving as fast as we need to move, not changing as fast as we need to change," Bloomberg senior adviser Carl Pope said of overall U.S. action. "But we think we are accelerating at a rate that we can get there." He added America's Pledge has seen a doubling of participants in the past three months.

WELCOME TO MONDAY! I'm your host Anthony Adragna, and the Citizens' Climate Lobby's Brett Cease identified Oklahoma as the state with two senators with the same first name (James Inhofe and James Lankford). For today: What former EPA administrator ran for U.S. Senate back in 1994 but lost in a Democratic primary (and which state)? Send your tips, energy gossip and comments to aadragna@politico.com, or follow us on Twitter @AnthonyAdragna, @Morning_Energy, and @POLITICOPro.

#CONCORDIA17: POLITICO is the official media partner of the 2017 Concordia Annual Summit taking place in conjunction with the UN General Assembly in NYC on Sept 18 and 19. Join us in the Big Apple as we host conversations with world leaders, industry experts, current and former heads of states, C-suite executives, and senior Congressional and Administration officials. Don't miss POLITICO reporters: **Bryan Bender**, Defense Editor, **Jack Blanchard**, Editor, Playbook London, **Helena Bottemiller Evich**, Senior Food and Agriculture Reporter, **Michael Crowley**, National Security Editor, **Susan Glasser** , Chief Foreign Affairs Correspondent & Global POLITICO Host, **Nick Juliano**, Deputy Energy Editor, **Matt Kaminski**, Executive Editor, POLITICO Europe, **Anna Palmer**, Senior Washington Correspondent and co-author of Playbook and **Ben White**, Chief Economic Correspondent. Register here.

REPORT: SEVEN MONUMENTS IN CROSSHAIRS: Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke's unreleased report to Trump on national monuments recommends shrinking or changing the boundaries of seven national monuments, The Wall Street Journal reports . Among the national monuments targeted are the Utah's Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante; Oregon's Cascade-Siskiyou; Nevada's Gold Butte; Maine's Katahdin; and New Mexico's Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks and Rio Grande Del Norte. Zinke's recommendations would also reopen Northeast Canyons and Seamounts off the Massachusetts coast and both Rose Atoll and the Pacific Remote Islands to commercial fishing.

Utah pushed drastic Bears Ears rollback: Utah Gov. Gary Herbert's office suggested to Zinke shrinking Bears Ears National Monument to one-tenth of its current 1.35 million acres, down to about 120,000 acres, The Salt Lake Tribune reports, citing an open records request. Native American leaders bashed the state's proposal and said it disregards the wishes of the tribes who pushed for the monument designation in the first place.

REPORT: ADMINISTRATION INCHING TOWARD ANWR DRILLING: Interior has proposed in an internal memo to lift a ban on exploratory seismic studies in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, taking a first step toward opening up the wilderness to drilling, the Washington Post reports . It's unclear how much interest energy companies would have in pouring significant investments into the region with oil prices remaining low, and Congress would ultimately have to authorize oil and gas drilling in the area. But U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Acting Director James W. Kurth requested in a memo that the agency update a 1980s regulation that allowed exploratory drilling as the agency pushes to remove legal obstacles to energy exploration in ANWR.

TRUMP MOCKS LONG GAS LINES IN NORTH KOREA: Trump tweeted Sunday (in addition to calling its leader Kim Jong Un "Rocket Man") that "Long gas lines forming in North Korea. Too bad!" It's unclear where Trump got his reports of long lines, but he appeared to be touting the effectiveness of new sanctions cleared by the U.N. Security Council last week. Though not as strong as the administration hoped, the sanctions capped North Korea's crude oil imports and barred the secluded nation from importing all natural gas liquids and condensates.

** **A message from the Nuclear Energy Institute**: Nuclear is doing more than ever before. It's powering the grid, boosting the economy by billions, creating jobs, propelling space travel and even helping doctors. It's moving us forward in ways we never thought possible. Explore all nuclear energy is doing at discovernuclear.com. **

PRUITT VISITS TEXAS SUPERFUND SITES: EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt on Friday visited the San Jacinto River waste pits, a Superfund site encompassing a group of impoundments holding 1960s-era paper mill waste that were affected by Hurricane Harvey. Following his visit, Pruitt promised the agency would make a final call on how to remediate the site before Oct. 14, The Baytown Sun reports . "So as we look to answers here, they need to be permanent, they need to provide confidence with the people of this area that it's going to be for the long haul and we fix this situation, so that anxiety goes away," the administrator said in a local TV interview.

EPA said Pruitt also received an aerial tour of other Superfund sites caught up in the storm, including Patrick Bayou, U.S. Oil Recovery, Highlands Acid Pits, French Unlimited, Brio Refining and Dixie Oil Processors.

More waivers granted: EPA announced it would extend waivers from certain Clean Air Act requirements through Sept. 22 for petroleum distribution facilities, gasoline storage facilities and bulk fuel terminals in Texas affected by Hurricane Harvey.

LET ME BE NU-CLEAR! Energy Secretary Rick Perry is in Vienna, Austria for the International Atomic Energy Agency's general conference. He posted pictures from a "wonderful dinner" with the group's Director General Yukiya Amano, a meeting with Chinese officials, d iscussions with Japanese representatives and a chance encounter with Austrian President Alexander Van der Bellen.

BIG WEEK FOR TRUMP NOMINEES! The House is out this week, so all eyes from congressional watchers will be on the Senate and the fate of ten energy and environmental nominees in committees. After a couple of false starts, the Energy and Natural Resources Committee is expected to clear five DOE, Interior and FERC nominees during a Tuesday business meeting at 9:30 a.m. without much drama.

It'll be a much different story the next day when the Environment and Public Works Committee holds a confirmation hearing for four EPA nominees. Expect vehement opposition from panel Democrats to the nominations of Michael Dourson to be the agency's chemical chief and William Wehrum to be the top air official. More on both sessions as we get closer.

MAIL CALL! ACTION SOUGHT ON BRAZILIAN TARIFF: A bipartisan group of 10 senators want U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer to talk Brazil out of its ethanol tariffs. "We are writing to ask that you directly engage the Brazilian government and quickly work to resolve this issue," the letter says. It doesn't call for any specific remedies other than asking Lighthizer to get Brazil to back down from its 20 percent tariff on ethanol imports above 600 million liters (158 million gallons). "We are writing to ask that you directly engage the Brazilian government and quickly work to resolve this issue," the senators say. The letter is signed by six Democrats and four Republicans, and includes Sens. Chuck Grassley and Debbie Stabenow , both of whom are on the Finance committee, which has oversight of the Trade Representative.

TAKE A GLANCE! WHAT WORKS IN OFFSHORE WIND: The Center for American Progress is out with a report today examining state policies that helped offshore wind projects in Rhode Island, Massachusetts and New York get off the around. Among the items they recommend states consider for the policy toolkits: Strong renewable energy requirements, legislation guaranteeing demand for offshore wind power, comprehensive ocean planning, competitive and reasonable long-term power purchase agreements and infrastructure investments in areas like ports. CAP argues the lessons could be applied to states like New Jersey, North and South Carolina, Ohio, Maryland, Virginia and California.

THIS SEEMS LIKE A BIG DEAL: The House on Friday argued in legal filings federal

agencies should not release congressional records through Freedom of Information Act requests, POLITICO's Josh Gerstein reports. In a federal district court filing, House General Counsel Thomas Hungar said a House body known as the Bipartisan Legal Advisory Group voted unanimously in favor of the intervention to "protect the institutional interests of the House."

ME FIRST - CLEAN ENERGY WEEK KICKOFF IN STYLE: Perry and Zinke are teaming up to kick off National Clean Energy Week on Sept. 26 at the Reserve Officers Association on Capitol Hill in a discussion moderated by former New Hampshire Sen. Kelly Ayotte. Also expected to speak throughout the day are Rep. Cathy McMorris Rodgers and Sen. Lindsey Graham.

WEEKEND PAPAL THOUGHT: "Global action is needed in order to reduce pollution and at the same time promote development in poorer countries," Pope Francis tweeted Saturday.

QUICK HITS

- Capitol Insider: Ohio coal officials join Trump administration. Columbus Dispatch.

- British Press Watchdog Says Climate Change Article Was Faulty. New York Times.

- $10M coming to Colstrip in coal plant settlement, but future of facility darkens. KPAX.

- IEA Sees Risk of Volatile Oil Prices on Weak Upstream Investment. Bloomberg.

- Protesters set to rally against Australia's biggest coal project. Reuters.

- Refinery, jobs threatened by EPA regulation. Toledo Blade.

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To view online:
http://www.politico.com/tipsheets/morning-energy/2017/09/18/decoding-team-trumps-murky-signals-on-paris-deal-222329

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To: Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
From: Morning Transportation
Sent: Thur 6/8/2017 2:06:07 PM
Subject: POLITICO's Morning Transportation, presented by Delta Air Lines: A Capitol Hill encore for Chao on FAA — Trump's infrastructure plan light on details — An electronics ban expansion?

By Lauren Gardner and Tanya Snyder | 06/08/2017 10:00 AM EDT

With help from Brianna Gurciullo and Stephanie Beasley

CAN I GET AN ENCORE?: If you're an FAA fan, indeed you can - Transportation Secretary Elaine Chao is back on the Hill today to defend the administration's principles for overhauling the air traffic control system. The House Transportation Committee could be a friendlier venue for Chao compared to Wednesday's Senate hearing, where she took a grilling from both parties about how exactly the White House plan would protect rural interests. On the other hand, T&I Democrats are likely to be even feistier - and certainly more numerous.

More specifics, please: Chao's toughest questions Wednesday came from rural senators, including Commerce Chairman John Thune, who tried to get Chao to talk specifics on how the administration plans to allay the concerns of general aviation pilots, rural airports and others worried that they will be disadvantaged in favor of commercial airlines. Chao mostly answered broadly by pointing to her own Kentucky bona fides, and suggesting removing the FAA from the picture would be better for rural interests such as contract towers, because they often are first on the budgetary chopping block. She also defended the makeup of the proposed board by saying it would "not [be] controlled by the airlines." But for skeptical Republicans, that didn't seem to be enough, and afterwards Thune said he'd been "looking for a little bit more specificity." Sen. Roger Wicker (R-Miss.) summed it up: "The sale needs to be made, and it needs to be made convincingly."

Make some noise: While T&I Republicans on the whole may be friendlier to Chao's pitch today, keep an eye on GOP Reps. Sam Graves of Missouri and Todd Rokita of Indiana. Both are pilots who voted against Shuster's FAA bill in committee last year and have yet to be won over. Rokita told MT that the White House outline "will create a monopoly" and eliminate congressional oversight. Graves told MT that he doesn't like Trump's changes but "it doesn't matter" because "what we're going to do in the House will be different than that." He said he expects "there will be" changes to Shuster's bill to assuage general aviation concerns.

Doom and gloom: Also expect to hear more members' fears that such an intense focus on splitting up the FAA is holding up a long-term authorization for FAA. "With the administration's support of this concept, the chances of getting a long-term FAA reauthorization in my view have now been diminished," Sen. Jerry Moran (R-Kan.) said Wednesday, "so at some point in time the decision needs to be made by you and others in the administration - is our priority a long-term FAA reauthorization, or is it privatization of air traffic control? Because those two things may be mutually exclusive." Thune said he wants to do a multi-year bill, but just how long is obviously dependent upon the ATC debate, as well as the touchy subject of lifting the cap on the passenger facility charge.

Well, we tried: MT approached Shuster Wednesday to ask about general aviation concerns aired on the Senate side, but all he'd say is to check in with his press office. Spokesmen didn't call back, but the message from the Senate's first FAA hearing is clear (and well-known): Senators are far from a consensus on this topic, and that won't change without a meeting of the minds among industry groups.

IT'S THURSDAY: Thanks for tuning in to POLITICO's Morning Transportation, your daily tipsheet on all things trains, planes, automobiles and ports. Send us tips, feedback and lyrics to tsnyder@politico.com or @TSnyderDC and lgardner@politico.com or @Gardner_LM.

"I got me a car, it's as big as a whale / And we're headin' on down to the Love Shack / I got me a Chrysler, it seats about 20 / So hurry up and bring your jukebox money."

Want to keep up with MT's song picks? Follow our Spotify playlist.

THE INNOVATION ISSUE: How should Washington think about innovation? What's its role in the economy - and what does it take for government to foster new technologies that help the whole nation, not just a favored few? In a month long Special Report, **The Agenda** takes a deep look at the surprising new politics of innovation, and ideas for how to drive it in a new era. In this package, you'll read about how AOL founder Steve Case became the first call for Congresspeople who want to bring innovation to the heartland; a critical look at Challenge.gov , the federal government's prize competition designed to spur innovation; and the surprisingly innovative history of the U.S. Post Office, which was long on the forefront of technology before turning into a lesson in what *not* to do. Read the entire package here.

NOT TO BE OUTDONE: House Transportation Committee Democrats unveiled their own bill Wednesday to make "targeted" changes to the FAA, rather than shift wholesale to a new system, our Kathryn A. Wolfe reports for Pros. Instead of an ATC spinoff, the bill would move the agency's Airport and Airway Trust Fund off-budget into mandatory spending, a move that would surely irk appropriators while keeping tax-writers happy. "We just need to do away with the inefficiencies and the meddling by Congress," Rep. Peter DeFazio (D-Ore.) said. "That is sequestration, shut downs and all the other stupid things that go on around here." Shuster shot back that DeFazio's plan "rehashes years and years of ineffective congressional reforms."

FUNNY, THAT'S WHAT THE DEMOCRATS CALL IT TOO: At a Competitive Enterprise Institute event Wednesday night, Chao tried to sell the conservative audience on an overhaul of the air traffic control system as potentially one of the largest transfers of "government assets and services to a non-governmental, independent entity in our country's history." Chao also said the administration may enforce a page limit on environmental reviews of infrastructure projects as an attempt to "cut red tape and reduce time delays and cost burdens." Brianna Gurciullo has more for Pros.

NOTHING NEW UNDER THE SUN: Trump's big infrastructure speech in Cincinnati yielded no new details about his infrastructure plan, in case you didn't watch, though the White House did release a fact sheet released during the speech with a few more details. He also jabbed repeatedly the 2009 stimulus package for its focus on "shovel ready" projects. Trump promised

not to "repeat that mistake," though he has put forward his own similar concept in the form of a 90-day deadline for states to start infrastructure projects under the new program.

No trust in the trust fund: Annie Snider of Pro Energy notes that while Trump decried the state of America's "dilapidated system of locks and dams," his own budget blueprint calls for deep funding cuts to the same programs, including a more than 50 percent slash to the Army Corps of Engineers' construction account, allocating enough funding for only a single new project on the system.

Progressive Dems respond: In a press conference after Trump's speech, Rep. Jamie Raskin (D-Md.) slammed Trump's plan as "a massive tax giveaway to private builders," a common Democratic refrain. Raskin joined 43 others to cosponsor a resolution "supporting efforts to enact a bold jobs and infrastructure package that benefits all Americans, not just billionaires."

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GBTA JOINS THE FAA FRAY: In its first public position on separating air traffic control from the FAA, the Global Business Travel Association joined Airlines for America Wednesday to ask the House Ways and Means Committee "to craft ... a tax/revenue framework necessary to modernize our antiquated air traffic control system," saying it "has the potential to save billions in terms of technology modernization and efficiency costs." Ways and Means ranking member Richard Neal (D-Mass.) told MT Wednesday that he hasn't reviewed the issue yet.

DHS COULD ADD DOZENS OF AIRPORTS TO ELECTRONICS BAN: The Department of Homeland Security has identified at least 71 airports, including some in Europe, where an electronics ban could be necessary for U.S.-bound flights, Homeland Security Secretary John Kelly told House members Wednesday. But it's not a done deal yet. The department is trying to mitigate risks from explosives planted on portable devices through other means. Kelly said countries that want to avoid the ban are "leaning forward" and cooperating.

We could be cooperating right now, but Trump's playing: Bonnie Watson Coleman (N.J.), the top Democrat on the committee's transportation security panel, told POLITICO after the hearing that she worries that President Donald Trump damages any chance for cooperation each time he attacks foreign leaders on Twitter. Coleman pushed Kelly for another confidential update on the status of a possible ban expansion.

READY OR NOT, REAL ID IS COMING: Kelly also dropped a warning to states who have yet to comply with the Real ID mandate: he's not budging on the deadline and states "dragging their feet" shouldn't expect extensions. There are more than 20 states that have yet to comply with the ID standards law, although DHS has announced that it will stop accepting non-compliant identification at airports and other ports of entry beginning in January.

INFRASTRUCTURE WEEK, CONTINUED: Today Trump hosts mayors and governors at the White House to discuss infrastructure. And Friday morning Trump is scheduled to speak at

DOT about reducing permitting burdens.

KAN, SUMWALT HEAD TO THE HILL: Amid all the infrastructure chatter this week, the Senate will move ahead on vetting two more transportation nominees - Derek Kan to be undersecretary of transportation for policy and Robert Sumwalt to remain an NTSB board member. Something to watch: Democrats may seize on Kan's experience on the Amtrak board of directors to ask whether he'll advocate for funding for the railroad if he's confirmed, given the administration's budget proposal to eliminate money for its long-distance routes. In the run-up, Kan got some plaudits from Amtrak board Chairman Tony Coscia. "Significant advances have been made in an effort to make Amtrak more accountable to its stakeholders and Derek has been at the forefront of this effort.," he said in a statement.

INFRASTRUCTURE GETS A MCCONNELL MENTION: With Trump's Wednesday speech just a stone's throw from Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell's home state of Kentucky, McConnell gave infrastructure a nod, saying he looked forward to working with the administration "to protect and improve the many roads, bridges, airports, and waterways that serve people and jobs across the country."

Schumer still waiting for Trump's call: Minority Leader Chuck Schumer predicted before Trump's speech that what few details Trump would divulge would "be about how large financiers should decide where and how to build American infrastructure." He said hes "never heard a peep" from Trump after sending his own infrastructure plan, designed around Trump's $1 trillion figure. "I hope the President drops his go-at-it-alone infrastructure push, and decides instead to sit down and talk to Democrats about this issue," Schumer said.

But did Schumer say 'Trump tolls?' Of course: A focus on public-private partnerships "will do one thing - lead to Trump tolls from coast to coast," he said.

HOUSE WAIVES SOME CBP POLYGRAPH TESTS: The House passed a bill Wednesday 282-137 to exempt military veterans and law enforcement officers from a Customs and Border Protection rule requiring job applicants to take a polygraph test. The Senate Homeland and Governmental Affairs Committee approved a similar bill last month.

KELLY'S ETHICS WAIVER RELEASED: The White House released Kelly's ethics waiver Wednesday among a slew of others. The document revealed that Kelly has been permitted to continue working on policy matters related to Australia, where he previously mentored members of a government-sponsored defense task force. The whole set of waivers can be found here.

THE AUTOBAHN:

- "Self-driving cars could soon be tested on Washington roads." The Seattle Times.

- "Bavaria to Trump: Tariffs on cars will hurt US as much as Germany." POLITICO Europe.

- "Metro to retire oldest and worst railcars ahead of schedule." WAMU.

- "Under Trump, regulation slows to a crawl." POLITICO.

- DOT asks for public comment on its regulatory review. Federal Register.

- "The state of global shipping in three charts." The Wall Street Journal.

- "Exclusive: Loophole allows Uber to avoid UK tax, undercut rivals." Reuters.

THE COUNTDOWN: DOT appropriations run out in 115 days. The FAA reauthorization expires in 115 days. Highway and transit policy is up for renewal in 1,211 days.

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From: Morning Transportation
Sent: Mon 9/18/2017 2:04:21 PM
Subject: POLITICO's Morning Transportation, presented by Auto Alliance: What now for FAA? — Populist pugilism — Blue Monday — Backlash against reg recommendation

By Brianna Gurciullo | 09/18/2017 10:00 AM EDT

With help from Lauren Gardner and Stephanie Beasley

WHAT NOW FOR FAA? The House is gone for a week, which means lawmakers will only have a handful of days to clear an extension of the FAA's authority before it expires Sept. 30. Pros know that the Trump administration, which supports Transportation Chairman Bill Shuster's (R-Pa.) plan to sever air traffic control operations from the FAA, thinks his bill (H.R. 2997 (115)) will get floor time in the early part of October. But an extension will of course come first, and there are still a few things we don't yet know:

How long? Shuster has been noncommittal (in public) when it comes to extension length. But Senate Commerce Chairman John Thune (R-S.D.) is thinking six months, at least - which is also the preference of airports, GA groups and the House Transportation Committee's top Democrat, Rep. Peter DeFazio of Oregon. It's unclear whether Thune would try to take advantage of those added months to keep working on striking a deal with Democrats on his controversial proposal related to pilot training standards. Thune said he made no progress on that front over the August recess.

Will it be clean? Your Pro Transportation team will also be watching for any efforts to pin unrelated items onto an extension. You know where to find us.

POPULIST PUGILISM: If you follow aviation-related causes on Twitter and Facebook, you might have noticed a change in tenor around the air traffic control debate once lawmakers left town for the August recess. Citizens for On Time Flights, a "grassroots" group backed by Airlines for America, upped the ante on its social media presence over the course of the month by bashing the business aviation lobby for standing in the way of change in the name of the "corporate jet set." Another group that's gotten some support from the airlines, Flyers for Fairness, entered the fray right before Labor Day but has been far less active.

Gloves off: The debate around the proposal has been heated for some time, and it's not like the general aviation community hasn't passed up opportunities to knock the airlines over recent customer service headaches. But, as Lauren Gardner writes , this messaging pivot is notable because the airlines used the "corporate fat cat" argument 10 years ago when making the same pitch. This time, A4A is largely sticking to arguments that focus on the efficiency the private sector would bring to the air traffic modernization effort (and that would occur by leaving a deadline-blowing Congress out of the funding equation) - all while letting surrogates take the big swings at business aviation.

Outtakes: Alan Clendenin, a former air traffic controller who's serving as a spokesman for Flyers for Fairness, was whistling a different tune about splitting air traffic operations from the

FAA earlier this summer (which Shaun Courtney of Bloomberg BNA highlighted earlier in the month). "Does the American public really want the same group of people that run the airlines, where they beat you and drag you off airplanes, to be the ones that are in charge of air traffic control safety?" he said during a discussion on an ABC affiliate in Sarasota, Fla. Here's the YouTube clip of the broadcast. (The ATC segment begins around the 30-minute mark.)

HAPPY MONDAY: Thanks for tuning in to POLITICO's Morning Transportation, your daily tipsheet on all things trains, planes, automobiles and ports. Be sure to send tips, feedback and lyrics my way: bgurciullo@politico.com or @brigurciullo.

"There's no flights home today / And no services out on the motorway / And I can't leave the ground / And I can't find a place now to put her down." (h/t Matt Daily)

GET LISTENING: Follow MT's playlist on Spotify. What better way to start your day than with songs (picked by us and readers) that are all about flying, driving, commuting and sailing?

#CONCORDIA17: POLITICO is the official media partner of the 2017 Concordia Annual Summit taking place in conjunction with the U.N. General Assembly in New York City on Sept. 18 and 19. Join us in the Big Apple as we host conversations with world leaders, industry experts, current and former heads of states, C-suite executives and senior congressional and Trump administration officials. Don't miss POLITICO reporters: **Bryan Bender**, Defense Editor; **Jack Blanchard**, Editor, Playbook London; **Helena Bottemiller Evich**, Senior Food and Agriculture Reporter; **Michael Crowley**, National Security Editor; **Susan Glasser** , Chief Foreign Affairs Correspondent & Global POLITICO Host; **Nick Juliano**, Deputy Energy Editor; **Matt Kaminski**, Executive Editor, POLITICO Europe; **Anna Palmer**, Senior Washington Correspondent and co-author of Playbook; and **Ben White**, Chief Economic Correspondent. Register here.

BLUE MONDAY: After a bombing in London last week, DHS reiterated to Steph that currently there are no "specific credible threats" to the United States. TSA spokeswoman Lisa Farbstein added separately that the agency was working with transit and passenger rail stations to train and educate staff on how to deal with potential terrorist threats. The London bombing is a "sad reminder that we must remain vigilant and continue to have close coordination and collaboration between the federal government, local law enforcement officials, and mass-transit industry," she said.

Trump blasts terrorist groups: British authorities have arrested two suspects in connection with the bombing for which ISIS claimed responsibility. President Donald Trump, who called U.K. Prime Minister Theresa May on Friday to offer condolences, tweeted that the bombing had been perpetuated by "loser terrorists" and was further evidence of the need for an expanded travel ban.

** **A message from Auto Alliance**: Federal action is needed for self-driving cars. Learn More **

BACKLASH AGAINST REG REC: Family members of the victims of a 2009 regional jet

crash are lashing out at an industry panel's recommendation to give airline co-pilots more ways to earn credit toward the 1,500-hour requirement for certification, as regional airlines have proposed. "Administrator Huerta and his team at FAA have been instrumental in making Congress's intent a reality with the implementation of this law," John Kausner, whose daughter died in the crash near Buffalo, N.Y., said in a statement. "And in the interest of government efficiency, we call on them to waste no time in giving these recommendations the treatment they rightfully deserve - a quick toss right into the circular file."

NTSB NOM: Trump is nominating Bruce Landsberg, the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association and Air Safety Institute's senior safety adviser, to the NTSB. If confirmed, Landsberg would be NTSB's vice chairman. Lauren has more for Pros here.

AND EX-IM NOMS: Trump has nominated Claudia Slacik, Judith Pryor and Kimberly Reed to be members of the Export-Import Bank's board. Slacik previously served as chief banking officer of the Ex-Im Bank, Pryor was an Overseas Private Investment Corporation's vice president and Reed was the International Food Information Council Foundation's president. If confirmed, Reed would be the vice president of the bank, Pro Trade's Doug Palmer reports.

Industry reax: The National Association of Manufacturers wants "the Senate to quickly take up these three nominations as well as the previously announced nomination of Spencer Bachus," Jay Timmons, the president and CEO of the group, said in a statement. "At the same time, we continue to call on the Senate to oppose the confirmation of Scott Garrett, who seeks to lead the Ex-Im Bank despite a long history of actions and statements designed to destroy the agency itself."

MT MAILBAG: The libertarian Competitive Enterprise Institute wrote to the Senate Commerce Committee with a trio of asks for the panel's draft self-driving vehicle bill. CEI argues that the legislation should include heavy-duty trucks, lift the limit on federal motor vehicle safety standards exemptions to 100,000 a year right away (instead of over three years) and leave out a proposed section on cybersecurity.

IT'S (STILL) ON: Opponents of Shuster's FAA bill are boasting more allies. The International Council of Air Shows posted a video to YouTube last week of retired Navy and Air Force pilots making the claim, among others, that the legislation would "negatively impact our national security and needlessly complicate border protection."

BUILD UP: The majority of states saw an increase in construction jobs over the course of the last year. A total of 34 states, plus D.C., added such jobs from last August to the same month of this year, the Associated General Contractors of America found by taking a look at Department of Labor data. New jobs grew in 30 states from July to August of this year.

SLICE OF PI: Monument Policy Group is going to lobby for the U.S. Chamber of Commerce's Technology Engagement Center on "self-driving cars, the internet of things, artificial intelligence and related legislation," per POLITICO Influence.

SHIFTING GEARS: Haley Morris, formerly of Microsoft, is now doing communications for

Waymo, our friends at POLITICO Playbook report. Previously, Morris served as national press secretary for Martin O'Malley's presidential campaign and communications director for now-Sen. Gary Peters ' (D-Mich.) 2014 campaign. Meanwhile, the Association for Unmanned Vehicle Systems International picked Tracy Lamb to be chief pilot as well as vice president of regulatory and safety affairs. Lamb, the Bristow Group's former manager of safety data analysis, "will represent AUVSI at the FAA and at international regulatory organizations" and educate the drone group's membership about safety, President and CEO Brian Wynne said in a statement.

THE AUTOBAHN:

- "Commission, industry advance cross-border testing of automated cars." POLITICO Europe.

- "Frontier Airlines fined for long delays in Denver snowstorm." The Associated Press.

- "Judge blocks Justice Department move against sanctuary cities." POLITICO.

- "Ford invests $5M in Willow Run driverless car test site." Detroit Free Press.

- "FHWA demonstrates three-truck platoon in Virginia." Transport Topics.

- "When the Olympics are ready for Los Angeles, will LAX be ready for the Olympics?" Forbes.

THE COUNTDOWN: DOT appropriations run out in 82 days. The FAA reauthorization expires in 13 days. Highway and transit policy is up for renewal in 1,109 days.

** **A message from Auto Alliance**: Automakers have a vision for transforming mobility: save lives with automated vehicles. Learn More **

To view online:
http://www.politico.com/tipsheets/morning-transportation/2017/09/18/what-now-for-faa-222337

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To: Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
From: POLITICO
Sent: Wed 5/24/2017 2:42:23 PM
Subject: BREAKING NEWS: House Intelligence Committee to subpoena Flynn

The House Intelligence Committee will issue subpoenas to Michael Flynn, Rep. Adam Schiff said.

Schiff, the top Democrat on the House Intelligence Committee, said he hoped the subpoenas to President Donald Trump's former national security adviser would go out this week. The Senate Intelligence Committee has also subpoenaed Flynn, who has so far refused to comply.

Read more: http://www.politico.com/story/2017/05/24/house-intelligence-committee-to-subpoena-flynn-238763

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To: Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
From: Morning Score
Sent: Thur 6/8/2017 2:06:09 PM
Subject: POLITICO's Morning Score: Georgia special election becomes a turnout battle — Strange opponents build campaigns ahead of SLF ads — Northam sends cease-and-desist to outside group backing him

By Daniel Strauss | 06/08/2017 10:00 AM EDT

With Kevin Robillard

The following newsletter is an abridged version of Campaign Pro's Morning Score. For an earlier morning read on exponentially more races - and for a more comprehensive aggregation of the day's most important campaign news - sign up for Campaign Pro today. (http://www.politicopro.com/proinfo)

IT'S ALL COMING DOWN TO ... - "Georgia special election becomes turnout battle," by Campaign Pro's Elena Schneider in Dunwoody, Ga.: "Democrats and Republicans alike are spending the final days of Georgia's special House election on a desperate block-by-block chase to turn out additional voters, believing they hold the key to a close race that has drawn outsized national attention. Publicly, Democrat Jon Ossoff and Republican Karen Handel are still hewing tightly to themes of cutting spending and being independent voices for Georgia, both in TV ads and during Tuesday's debate. But it's not clear that true, undecided swing voters even exist anymore in the Atlanta suburbs, after months of endless TV ads, mailbox-clogging fliers and heavy local news coverage...Already, over 12,000 people who didn't vote in round one have cast early ballots for the runoff between Ossoff and Handel, according to data from the Georgia secretary of state's office. Republicans have spent the two months since the April all-party primary chasing after thousands of known GOP primary voters in the past who didn't vote in the first round, when Ossoff came just over 3,600 votes short of winning the district without a runoff." **Read more**.

ROLLING TIDE - "Strange opponents try to coalesce anti-establishment forces," by Campaign Pro's Daniel Strauss: "The top Republican primary opponents to Sen. Luther Strange aren't trying to outspend him - his campaign and allies could give as much as $10 million to reelect him. And they're not bothering to try flanking Strange, the former Alabama attorney general, on law and order. Rather, Rep. Mo Brooks and former Alabama Supreme Court Chief Justice Roy Moore - Strange's most dangerous primary rivals - are looking to build campaigns strong enough to attract help against Strange and his big backing from Senate Republicans, which is coming through next week in the form of outside-group TV ads ... On Tuesday, Moore named former state GOP chairman Bill Armistead, who has strong ties across the wings of the Republican Party in Alabama, as his campaign chairman. Brooks, meanwhile, nailed down talk-radio endorsements from Laura Ingraham and Mark Levin as he tries to expand his footprint beyond his district." **Read more.**

- "Senate Leadership Fund starting pro-Strange ads next week," by Daniel Strauss: "Senate Leadership Fund and One Nation, the twin outside groups aligned with Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, have moved forward TV ad reservations backing Sen. Luther Strange in

Alabama's special Senate election. with SLF due to start airing ads next week." **Read more**.

Days until the 2017 election: 151.

Days until the 2018 election: 515.

Thanks for joining us. You can email tips to the Campaign Pro team at sbland@politico.com, eschneider@politico.com, krobillard@politico.com and dstrauss@politico.com.

You can also follow us on Twitter: @politicoscott, @ec_schneider, @politicokevin and @danielstrauss4.

OL' VIRGINNY - Northam sends cease-and-desist to outside group: Lt. Gov. Ralph Northam's campaign sent a letter Wednesday night to the treasurer of a PAC, "Virginians For A Better Future," that has indicated it plans to attack former Rep. Tom Perriello. The race has avoided negative advertising so far. "I would like to continue this positive campaign in the fashion both I and Mr. Perriello have been conducting it: fair, open and from the candidate. This promotes needed transparency and accountability," Northam wrote in the letter, which was copied to the Perriello campaign and members of the media. "Any negative campaigning against my opponent will draw an immediate denouncement from my campaign. Therefore I am asking your committee to halt any and all spending that would constitute an attack on my opponent's record."

- Perriello loaned his campaign $150,000, according to the Virginia Public Access Project.

- POLL POSITION - "Perriello internal poll claims tied Virginia Democratic primary," by Campaign Pro's Kevin Robillard: "An internal poll conducted for former Rep. Tom Perriello's campaign and obtained by POLITICO shows Perriello essentially tied with Lt. Gov. Ralph Northam in Virginia's Democratic gubernatorial primary. A HaystaqDNA survey, conducted from June 1-6, shows Perriello earning 37 percent of the vote to Northam's 36 percent, with 27 percent of voters still undecided. A polling memo says Perriello has rapidly closed the gap with Northam. In an early May poll, Northam led 38 percent to 24 percent, with 37 percent undecided." **Full memo here.**

- How all over the place has the polling been in the Democratic primary? Perriello's polling in early May had him down 14 percentage points, according to this memo. A second poll, from May 17 to 23, found him down eight percentage points. In between those two polls, the Washington Post-George Mason University poll found Perriello up two points. In other words: ¯_(???)_/¯

THE SOCIAL NETWORK - "Facebook rolls out features for elected officials," by POLITICO's Steven Overly: "Facebook debuted three new features today aimed at helping elected officials, political candidates and their staffs sort through the deluge of content on the social network to find the comments and news stories connected directly to their home districts. Facebook users can now use a feature called Constituent Badges to identify themselves as living in a representative's district by privately inputting their home address. ... Another feature called

Constituent Insights allows politicians to track news stories and other content going viral among users in their district. ... Finally, politicians can now adjust their page settings so that messages or Facebook Live feeds are only broadcast to individuals living in their districts." **Read more.**

REDISTRICTING WATCH - "Cooper says he'll call special session on redistricting," by the Raleigh News and Observer's Anne Blythe: "Gov. Roy Cooper, trying to put pressure on lawmakers to redraw state House and Senate election maps within the next two weeks, said he would call for a 14-day special session of the legislature. The session Cooper plans to call would run simultaneously with the ongoing regular session, which is due to end some time this summer. He said such a concurrent session is rare but not unprecedented. The U.S. Supreme Court on Monday affirmed a lower court ruling that found 28 legislative districts to be illegal racial gerrymanders that diluted the overall influence of black voters." **Full story.**

WEST COAST OFFENSE - "Republican political operatives want to sell the dark arts of opposition research to tech companies," by Recode's Tony Romm: "A team of veteran Republican operatives is taking its talent for under-the-radar political muckraking to an unlikely place: The liberal-leaning, Democratic-donating, Donald Trump-hating tech epicenter of Silicon Valley. The newest startup setting up shop in the Bay Area is Definers Public Affairs, a Washington, D.C.-based outfit that seeks to apply the dark science of political opposition research to the business world. Their mission: To arm companies with ammunition to attack their corporate rivals, sway their government overseers and shape the public's opinion on controversial issues ... the firm's new Oakland-based operative - Tim Miller, who previously served as communications director to GOP presidential contender Jeb Bush - plans to do it with a decidedly Republican bent." **Read more**.

ADMINISTRATION SPEED READ - "5 things to watch in Comey's testimony on Trump and Russia," by POLITICO's Kyle Cheney: "Fired FBI Director James Comey comes before Congress on Thursday with the power to plunge Donald Trump's presidency even deeper into crisis. Trump ousted Comey on May 9, amid an investigation into whether the president's associates aided a Russian effort to interfere in the 2016 presidential election. And on Wednesday, Comey described for the first time a series of uncomfortable interactions - in the months before his firing - in which Trump nudged Comey to publicly absolve him of any connection to the Russia probe. According to Comey's prepared testimony, the president also demanded loyalty and asked Trump to go easy on Michael Flynn, his former national security adviser, who is under FBI investigation." **Read more.**

CODA - QUOTE OF THE DAY: "Notwithstanding anyone's statements to the contrary, you did not initiate any physical contact with me, and I had no right to assault you. I am sorry for what I did and the unwanted notoriety this has created for you. I take full responsibility." - Rep.-elect Greg Gianforte (R-Mont.), in an apology letter to The Guardian's Ben Jacobs, via POLITICO.

To view online:
http://www.politico.com/tipsheets/morning-score/2017/06/08/georgia-special-election-becomes-a-turnout-battle-220728

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To: Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
From: Morning Score
Sent: Mon 9/18/2017 2:04:21 PM
Subject: POLITICO's Morning Score: Alabama special on verge of making big trouble for McConnell — Progressive scientists PAC endorses House candidates — Trump's team gunning for potential 2020 rivals

By Elena Schneider | 09/18/2017 10:00 AM EDT

With Kevin Robillard

The following newsletter is an abridged version of Campaign Pro's Morning Score. For an earlier morning read on exponentially more races - and for a more comprehensive aggregation of the day's most important campaign news - sign up for Campaign Pro today. (http://www.politicopro.com/proinfo)

COMING ATTRACTIONS - "McConnell's mortal enemy might soon be in his caucus," by POLITICO's Burgess Everett and Seung Min Kim: "Three words are striking fear in Senate Republicans these days: 'Senator Roy Moore.' The bomb-throwing former Alabama Supreme Court justice has vaulted to a hefty lead in Alabama's special Senate special election, lambasting Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell every step of the way. A Moore victory promises to make McConnell's tenuous 52-seat majority even more precarious, allies of the majority leader warn, potentially imperiling tax reform, raising the risk of default on the nation's debt or even derailing routine Senate business. Moore faces interim Sen. Luther Strange - whom a McConnell-aligned outside group has spent millions to elect - in a Sept. 26 Republican runoff. Strange is a team player, according to interviews with more than a dozen Republican senators, while Moore is viewed as unpredictable - a clash-in-waiting with McConnell's low-key leadership style." **Full story.**

FIRST IN SCORE - "Progressive scientists PAC endorses Senate, House candidates," by Campaign Pro's Elena Schneider: "314 Action, a new progressive group dedicated to electing scientists and STEM professionals at all levels of government, is rolling out a new round of endorsements in races across the country, as small-dollar donors continue to pump money into new organizations for the 2018 elections. A dozen candidates from city council to the U.S. Senate have gotten 314 Action's seal of approval, including Virginia Lt. Gov. Ralph Northam, who is running for governor; Nevada Rep. Jacky Rosen , who's challenging GOP Sen. Dean Heller; and a handful of House challengers and incumbents."

- House challengers who got the nod: "314 Action is adding four Republican-leaning districts to its roster of endorsed challengers, including Mai-Khanh Tran, a pediatrician who's running against GOP Rep. Ed Royce in southern California; Joseph Kopser, an aerospace engineer who's running to challenge Texas Rep. Lamar Smith; RD Huffstetler, a veteran running against Virginia Rep. Tom Garrett ; and Kathie Allen, a physician who's running to replace former Utah Rep. Jason Chaffetz in a special election. 314 Action also added two incumbents to its endorsement list: California Rep. Ami Bera and Massachusetts Rep. Seth Moulton. Earlier this year, the group backed Hans Keirstead, a stem cell researcher who's running in a crowded primary to challenge Republican Rep. Dana Rohrabacher in California, and Chrissy Houlahan, a former Air Force engineer who's running against Republican Rep. Ryan Costello in

Pennsylvania." **Full story.**

2018 WATCH - Club for Growth poll shows Heitkamp behind Schmidt: A new poll from the Club for Growth has North Dakota Democratic Sen. Heidi Heitkamp in a tight race with GOP state Treasurer Kelly Schmidt, who hasn't been extensively mentioned as a candidate so far. Schmidt earns 48 percent of the vote to Heitkamp's 44 percent, with 9 percent undecided. Only 42 percent of likely voters in the state say Heitkamp deserves reelection, while 44 percent said someone else deserves a chance. The poll also finds Heitkamp's support for Obamacare is hurting her: 60 percent says her Obamacare stance makes her less likely to earn their support, while just 23 percent said it makes it more likely. WPA Intelligence conducted the poll of 406 likely voters, with a plus or minus 4.9 percentage point margin of error. **Full result here.**

FRIENDS LIKE THESE - "As McCaskill touts record on seniors, donor and family friend runs troubled homes," via The Kansas Cit Star's Lindsay Wise and Steve Vockrodt: "...The lakefront vacation property in Missouri where McCaskill goes to escape the partisan chaos of Capitol Hill is owned by her husband, Joseph Shepard, and Rick DeStefane - a close family friend, a regular campaign donor and a nursing home executive with a track record of serious safety problems in an industry the senator has vowed to clean up. The allegations against DeStefane range from health and safety lapses linked to gruesome deaths at his nursing homes to a federal investigation into Medicare fraud, an investigation by The Kansas City Star has found. Meanwhile, DeStefane has entered into multiple financial relationships with McCaskill's husband while sending checks to underwrite McCaskill's political career." **Full story.**

ICYMI - "Establishment gears up for Steve Bannon's war on the GOP leadership," via The Washington Post's Michael Scherer and Matea Gold: "If 'war' against the Republican establishment is what former White House strategist Stephen K. Bannon wants, then war is what he will get. Deep-pocketed supporters of Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (Ky.) and other GOP leaders have resolved to fight a protracted battle over the next year for the soul of the party in congressional primaries." **Full story.**

Days until the 2017 election: 50.

Days until the 2018 election: 414.

Thanks for joining us! You can email tips to the Campaign Pro team at sbland@politico.com, eschneider@politico.com, krobillard@politico.com, dstrauss@politico.com and mseverns@politico.com.

You can also follow us on Twitter: @politicoscott, @ec_schneider, @politicokevin, @danielstrauss4 and @maggieseverns.

2020 WATCH - "Trump's team gunning for potential 2020 reelection rivals," by POLITICO's Gabriel Debenedetti: "Allies of Donald Trump have begun plotting to take down or weaken potential Democratic challengers in 2020, including several who will be on the ballot in next year's midterms. The 2018-focused work ranges from a major donor-funded super PAC designed to blemish Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren's image, to a full-scale effort to defeat

Ohio Sen. Sherrod Brown outright before he gets the chance to take on Trump. Beyond that, after months of monitoring dozens of potential challengers, Trump allies are building research files and crafting lines of attack on Democrats seen as most threatening to Trump and who will be on the ballot next November. The patchwork push is less organized than past efforts orchestrated by presidential reelection campaigns. But it's beginning to resemble Republicans' successful attempt to drag down Hillary Clinton before she announced her 2016 run." **Full story.**

THE TRUMP NOD - "President Trump tweets to support Bill Schuette for governor; spells his name wrong," by The Detroit Free Press' Lori Higgins: "President Donald Trump tweeted his support tonight for Michigan Attorney General Bill Schuette, who formally announced this week that he's running for governor. ...Schuette, in announcing his run for governor on Wednesday, promised that if elected, he would cut state income taxes, push Congress to repeal the Affordable Care Act, and bring the state more and better-paying jobs." **Full story.**

GUESS WHO'S BACK - Sources tell NY1 that Michael Grimm is planning a run for his old seat: "NY1 has learned that former New York congressman Michael Grimm will run for his old seat, less than 16 months after he was released from federal prison. Sources said Grimm will hold a rally Oct. 1 in New Dorp, where he is expected to announce his candidacy for next year's Republican primary against current Rep. Dan Donovan, who represents Staten Island and parts of south Brooklyn." **Full story.**

AIR WAR - "Guadagno vows tax cuts, attacks Murphy in new TV ads," by NJ.com's Brent Johnson: "Kim Guadagno, the Republican nominee running to become the next New Jersey governor, has unveiled the first two television advertisements of the general election a one promising to cut taxes and the other attacking Democratic opponent Phil Murphy." **Full story.**

THIS IS ODD - "Top aide urges county employees to attend 'very important' announcement about Kevin Kamenetz's political future," by The Washington Post's Josh Hicks: "A top Baltimore County government official has urged his staff's 'full participation' on Monday in a "very important announcement" by County Executive Kevin Kamenetz (D), who is expected to launch a run for governor this week. ...The email could violate state ethics rules that prohibit officials from using government time and resources to support political activity or using their positions to benefit individuals involved in political campaigns." **Full story.**

WEST COAST, BEST COAST - "Democrats' road to winning back the House goes through California, and it won't be as easy as it seems," via The Los Angeles Times' Christine Mai-Duc: "...But it might be a mistake to assume that strategy will be a panacea in California. Republican turnout in midterm elections often dwarfs Democratic turnout, and the rise of multiple viable candidates in many of the targeted districts threatens to mire them all in costly, divisive primary fights. A sampling of the outcomes for other races suggest Clinton's victories there are at risk of being overplayed. Meanwhile, fighting within the California Democratic Party between left-leaning activists and the more centrist stalwarts who have traditionally had more success in swing districts could further damage Democrats' chances." **Full story.**

RETIREMENT WATCH - Feinstein noncommittal on reelection: The Associated Press reported that California Sen. Dianne Feinstein said, when asked if she was "up for another six years," she answered: "Well, we will see, won't we." Feinstein is 84. **Full story here.**

- Hatch's health to determine reelection: Utah Sen. Orrin Hatch, 83, told The Salt Lake Tribune that he'll decide this fall if he plans to seek an eighth term, adding that his health will weigh heavily on his decision. Hatch is the third oldest member of the Senate. **Full story here.**

CASH RACE - Northam outraises Gillespie, has cash edge in Virginia: "Virginia Democratic Lt. Gov. Ralph Northam raised $7.2 million in the months of July and August, establishing a cash-on-hand lead over Republican Ed Gillespie in the state's gubernatorial contest. Gillespie raised $3.7 million in the same time period and has $2.6 million on hand after beginning television advertising well before Northam did. Northam has $5.6 million on hand, according to campaign finance records. After the primary, Gillespie had a solid cash advantage - he had $3.2 million in the bank to Northam's $1.75 million." **Full story.**

WEB WARS - FIRST IN SCORE - Missouri Democratic Party attacks Hawley over public corruption unit: This Missouri Democratic Party is out with a web ad attacking Republican Attorney General Josh Hawley, a likely opponent for Democratic Sen. Claire McCaskill, for failing to quickly establish a public corruption unit after promising to do so. "That's Josh Hawley. Saying one thing to get elected, doing the opposite when in office," a narrator concludes. **Watch the ad here**.

NEW FIRM ALERT - Walker advisor Keith Gilkes launches Platform Communications: Keith Gilkes, a long-time advisor to Wisconsin GOP Gov. Scott Walker, is launching Platform Communications, "a public affairs, community advocacy and communications strategy firm" based in Madison, Wis. Brian Reisinger, a former spokesman for Wisconsin Sen. Ron Johnson, will serve as vice president, with Nathan Conrad as director of corporate communications, Lauren Clarke as director of public affairs and Kathryn Kotowski as director of operations.

QUOTE OF THE DAY: "This will be the largest audience to witness an Emmys, period." - Sean Spicer at the Emmy's last night, POLITICO reported.

To view online:
http://www.politico.com/tipsheets/morning-score/2017/09/18/alabama-special-on-verge-of-making-big-trouble-for-mcconnell-222334

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To: Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
From: Bloomberg BNA
Sent: Mon 9/18/2017 1:42:01 PM
Subject: Sep. 18 -- Environment & Safety Resource Center Update

Environment & Safety Resource Center Update

September 18, 2017 - Number 38

Analysis : Chemicals Management Guide | Safety Guide
Federal Statutes, Regulations and Agency Documents : Federal Register Final Rules | Federal Register Notices | Federal Register Proposed Rules | Federal Workplace Safety Updates
States—Environment : Alabama | California | Colorado | Delaware | Florida | Kansas | New Hampshire | New Mexico | Texas | Virginia | Wisconsin | Wyoming

Analysis

Chemicals Management Guide

Federal

Reporting and Recordkeeping Requirements (Other TSCA Reporting Requirements). Updated to incorporate a discussion of the Working Guidance on the Environmental Protection Agency's Section 8(a) Information Gathering Rule on Nanomaterials in Commerce, released Aug. 14, which answers common questions regarding reporting and recordkeeping obligations for nanoscale substances. The guidance covers a variety of topics, such as which chemicals are reportable, who needs to report and when, what information needs to be included, and how to make confidentiality claims.

Safety Guide

State

Oklahoma (Injury and Illness Reporting and Recordkeeping (OSHA 300 Log)). Updated to reduce the information that must be reported when filing injury and illness claims reports and to establish a schedule of fines for violations. Employers no longer will need to report experience modification rates, workers compensation premiums, and claims information.

Federal Statutes, Regulations and Agency Documents

Federal Register Final Rules

33 CFR 117

82 FR 42735, 9/12/17: Drawbridge Operation Regulation; Carquinez Strait, Martinez, CA

82 FR 42940, 9/13/17: Drawbridge Operation Regulation; Gulf Intracoastal Waterway, Harvey, LA

82 FR 42940, 9/13/17: Drawbridge Operation Regulation; Quantuck Canal, Westhampton Beach, NY

33 CFR 165

82 FR 42941, 9/13/17: Safety Zone; Tennessee River, Knoxville, TN

82 FR 42943, 9/13/17: Safety Zone; L4D Optic Ground Wire Crossing, St. Clair River, St. Clair, MI

82 FR 42945, 9/13/17: Safety Zone; Allegheny River miles 0.0–0.25, Ohio River mile 0.0–0.1, Monongahela River mile 0.0–0.1; Pittsburgh, PA

82 FR 43301, 9/15/17: Safety Zone; Tombigbee River, Demopolis, AL

40 CFR 52

82 FR 42738, 9/12/17: Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Montana; Regional Haze Federal Implementation Plan

82 FR 42746, 9/12/17: Air Plan Approval; KY; Revisions to Ambient Air Quality Standards

82 FR 42945, 9/13/17: Approval of Missouri Air Quality Implementation Plans; Final Rule; Determination of Attainment for the 2010 1–Hour Primary Sulfur Dioxide National Ambient Air Quality Standard; Jefferson County Nonattainment Area

82 FR 43176, 9/14/17: Approval of California Air Plan Revisions, South Coast Air Quality Management

More...

Federal Register Notices

82 FR 42640, 9/11/17: Notice of Request for Approval of a New Information Collection

82 FR 42641, 9/11/17: Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

82 FR 42641, 9/11/17: Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

82 FR 42642, 9/11/17: Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

82 FR 42642, 9/11/17: Central Montana Resource Advisory Committee

82 FR 42643, 9/11/17: Wrangell–Petersburg Resource Advisory Committee

82 FR 42644, 9/11/17: Plumas County Resource Advisory Committee

82 FR 42644, 9/11/17: Olympic Peninsula Resource Advisory Committee

82 FR 42645, 9/11/17: Secure Rural Schools Resource Advisory Committees

82 FR 42646, 9/11/17: Olympic Peninsula Resource Advisory Committee

82 FR 42647, 9/11/17: Foreign–Trade Zone (FTZ) 122—Corpus Christi, Texas; Notification of Proposed Production Activity, voestalpine Texas, LLC, Subzone 122T (Hot Briquetted Iron and By–Products), Portland, Texas

82 FR 42648, 9/11/17: Approval of Expansion of Subzone 29F; Hitachi Automotive Systems Americas, Inc.; Berea, Kentucky

82 FR 42648, 9/11/17: Carbazole Violet Pigment 23 From India: Rescission of Countervailing Duty Administrative Review; 2015

82 FR 42649,

More...

Federal Register Proposed Rules

19 CFR 12

82 FR 42751, 9/12/17:

21 CFR 112

82 FR 42963, 9/13/17: Standards for the Growing, Harvesting, Packing, and Holding of Produce for Human Consumption; Extension of Compliance Dates for Subpart E

21 CFR 573

82 FR 43197, 9/14/17: Arcadia Biosciences, Inc.; Filing of Food Additive Petition (Animal Use)

21 CFR 1308

82 FR 42624, 9/11/17: Schedules of Controlled Substances: Temporary Placement of FUB–AMB Into Schedule I

82 FR 42754, 9/12/17: Schedules of Controlled Substances: Temporary Placement of Ortho–Fluorofentanyl, Tetrahydrofuranyl Fentanyl, and Methoxyacetyl Fentanyl Into Schedule I

30 CFR 56

82 FR 42757, 9/12/17: Examinations of Working Places in Metal and Nonmetal Mines

82 FR 42765, 9/12/17: Examinations of Working Places in Metal and Nonmetal Mines

30 CFR 57

82 FR 42757, 9/12/17: Examinations of Working Places in Metal and Nonmetal Mines

82 FR 42765, 9/12/17: Examinations of Working Places in Metal and Nonmetal Mines

33 CFR 203

More...

Federal Workplace Safety Updates

OSHA Fatal Facts No. 15 – 2017 — Warehouse Fall From Pallet Elevated by Forklift (8/17)

Process Safety Management for Petroleum Refineries — Lessons Learned From the Petroleum Refinery Process Safety Management National Emphasis Program (8/17)

Clarification of 1904.31 Regarding Who is Responsible for Recording Injuries and Illnesses When Supervision is Shared by a Prime Contractor and Subcontractors (4/25/17)

States—Environment

Alabama

State Register Summaries

ALR\ch335-1-1 - Alabama Administrative Monthly 08/31/2017 - Department of Environmental Management/Organization

ALR\ch335-1-1 - Alabama Administrative Monthly 08/31/2017 - Department of Environmental Management/Communications

ALR\ch335-1-6 - Alabama Administrative Monthly 09/07/2017 - Department of Environmental Management/Permit Application Fees

ALR\ch880-X-8B - Alabama Administrative Monthly 09/07/2017 - Surface Coal Mining/Permit Applications

California

State Register Summaries

CAR\ti14\di7\ch8.2 - California Regulatory Notice Register 09/08/2017 - Electronic Waste Recycling Program

Colorado

State Register Summaries

COR\rg7ccr1101-15 - Colorado Register 09/10/2017 - Liquefied Petroleum Gas

COR\rg5ccr1001-13 - Colorado Register 09/10/2017 - Motor Vehicle Emissions Inspection Program

COR\rg5ccr1002-35 - Colorado Register 09/10/2017 - Classifications and Numeric Standards/Gunnison and Dolores River Basins

COR\rg5ccr1002-33 - Colorado Register 09/10/2017 - Classifications and Numeric Standards/Upper Colorado River Basin and North Platte River

Delaware

State Register Summaries

DER\ti7\di7000\rg7401 - Delaware Register of Regulations 09/01/2017 - Surface Water Quality Standards

Florida

State Register Summaries

FLR\ch62-17 - Florida Administrative Weekly 09/12/2017 - Electric Power Plant Siting Act Newspaper Notices

Kansas

State Register Summaries

KSR\ag5\at14, KSR\ag5\at5 - Kansas Register 09/07/2017 - Consumptive Use of Water Right Calculations

New Hampshire

State Register Summaries

NHR\chEnv-Dw500 - New Hampshire Rulemaking Register 09/14/2017 - Certification of Water Works Operators

NHR\chEnv-Wq900 - New Hampshire Rulemaking Register 09/14/2017 - Youth Recreation Camps

NHR\Env-Or400 - New Hampshire Rulemaking Register 09/14/2017 - Underground Storage Tanks/Primary Containment System Testing

New Mexico

State Register Summaries

NMR\ti19\ch25\pt20 - New Mexico Register 09/12/2017 - Active Water Resource Management/Namb?-Pojoaque-Tesuque Water Master District

Texas

State Register Summaries

TXR\ti25\ch295 - Texas Register 09/08/2017 - Occupational Health/Standards for Food Service

Virginia

State Register Summaries

VAR\ti12\ag5\ch481 - Virginia Register 09/18/2017 - Radiation Protection Regulations

Wisconsin

State Register Summaries

WIR\chPSC135 - Wisconsin Administrative Register 09/11/2017 - Gas Safety

Wyoming

State Register Summaries

WYR\dpDEQ\diLQDU\ch1, WYR\dpDEQ\diLQDU\ch3, WYR\dpDEQ\diLQDU\ch4, WYR\dpDEQ\diLQDU\ch2, WYR\dpDEQ\diLQDU\ch5, WYR\dpDEQ\diLQDU\ch6, WYR\dpDEQ\diLQDU\ch7, WYR\dpDEQ\diLQDU\ch8, WYR\dpDEQ\diLQDU\ch9 - Wyoming Regulations 09/10/2017 - Uranium Recovery Program

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Environment & Safety Resource Center Update

To: Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
From: POLITICO
Sent: Thur 6/8/2017 1:48:15 PM
Subject: BREAKING NEWS: Follow live coverage of fired FBI Director James Comey's testimony

POLITICO reporters and editors provide running analysis of fired FBI Director James Comey's testimony and the Senate Intelligence Committee's questioning of him.

Watch the hearing here: http://politi.co/2mMpYHu

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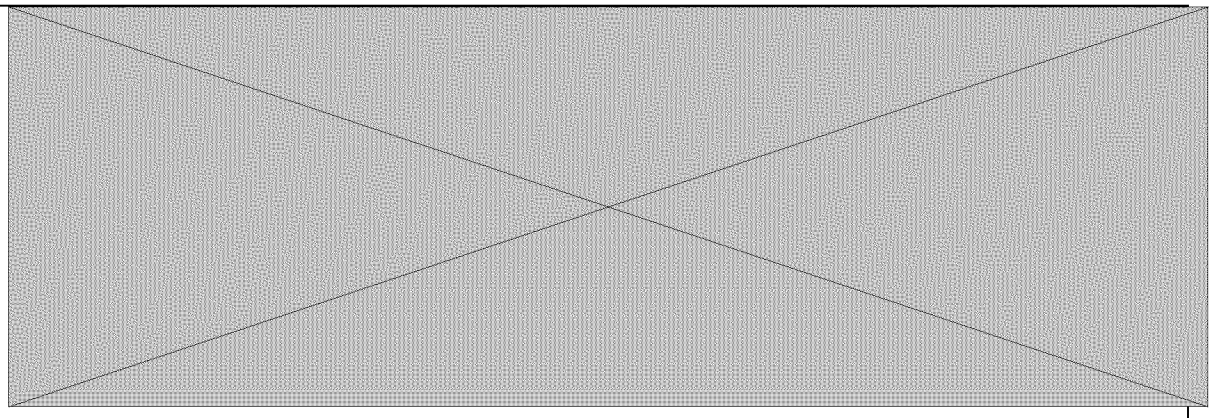
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To: Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
From: POLITICO Pro
Sent: Mon 9/18/2017 1:40:01 PM
Subject: Restream | POLITICO Pro Policy Summit



[redacted]

Dear Ryan,

[redacted]

At 11:00 a.m. EST POLITICO Pro will restream main stage plenary conversations from last week's Pro Policy Summit in Washington, D.C. As a Pro customer, you can access today's restream via the Summit live link.

[redacted]

Watch Summit Restream

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Mainstage Agenda – Restream begins at 11:00 a.m.

[redacted]

Plenary Session I:

[redacted]

- Health Care Reform – Now What?
- The New Space Race: Rethinking NASA for the Age of Private Space Exploration
- Government-Backed Hackers: How America Can Thwart Overseas Digital Assailants

[redacted]

Plenary Session II:

[redacted]

- Regulating in the Trump Era: The Case of the FDA
- Business and the Trump Administration: An Interview with Secretary of Commerce Wilbur Ross
- The View from Ways and Means: Prospects for Tax Reform

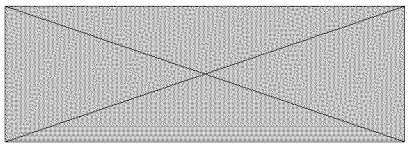
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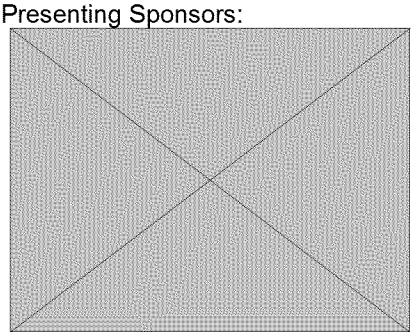
Plenary Session III:

[redacted]

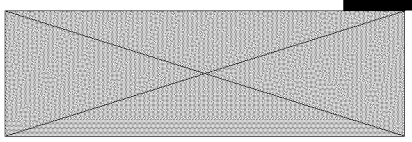
- From the Rust Belt to the Tech Belt: The Future of Jobs in Small-Town America
- How Self-Driving Cars Will Change Everything
- Tax Reform and The Trump Administration: An Interview with Secretary of the Treasury, Steve Mnuchin

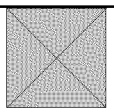
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To: Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
From: Bloomberg BNA
Sent: Thur 6/8/2017 12:33:07 PM
Subject: June 08 -- EHS State Regulatory Alert

EHS State Regulatory Alert

June 08, 2017 - Number 109

You can create a report customized by topic, jurisdiction, and date range by using the Regulatory Summaries Report Tool. The report can be generated in Excel, Word, or PDF.

California Regions

AIR
Control of Emissions from Refinery Flares
California Regions AIR

Notice of the South Coast Air Quality Management District announces a hearing on a proposed rule to amend regulations under Rule 1118 regarding control of emissions from refinery flares. The rule aligns provisions with recent updates to the U.S. EPA's Refinery Sector Rule regarding flares, including new prohibitions on smoking flare events. The rule also requires facilities to prepare a scoping document on the feasibility of eliminating all planned flaring events. In addition, the rule removes the $4 million annual cap on mitigation fees that facilities may pay for flaring, updates the volatile organic compounds emission factor based on the U.S. EPA's updated AP-42 guidance, and updates and clarifies reporting requirements for facilities. The hearing is scheduled for July 7, 2017, in Diamond Bar. Comments are due June 27, 2017. Contact: Ian MacMillan; South Coast AQMD; 909-396-3244; imacmillan@aqmd.gov

—California RegionsRegulations (05/31/2017)

Regulatory Update

AIR
PM-2.5 and Ozone Supplemental RACM/RACT Analysis
California Regions AIR

Notice of the South Coast Air Quality Management District announces a hearing on the supplemental reasonably available control measures/reasonably available control technology (RACM/RACT) analysis for the 2006 24-hour fine particulate matter (PM-2.5) and 2008 8-hour ozone national ambient air quality standards. The supplemental RACM/RACT analysis is issued in response to an April 14, 2016, final rule of the U.S. EPA that disapproved the RACM/RACT for the 2006 PM-2.5 standard and related reasonable further progress state implementation plan revisions based on a finding that the 2010 Regional Clean Air Incentives Market (RECLAIM) program does not meet the RACM/RACT requirement for certain sources of emissions. The supplemental analysis demonstrates that the RECLAIM program for nitrogen oxides satisfies

RACT requirements for the South Coast Air Basin and Coachella Valley. The supplemental analysis also addresses the adoption of negative declarations certifying there are no major stationary sources in the district that exceed the applicable thresholds in the control technique guidelines for surface coating operations at shipbuilding and repair facilities and paper, film and foil coatings. If approved, the supplemental analysis will be submitted to the California Air Resources Board and the U.S. EPA for inclusion in the SIP. The hearing is scheduled for July 7, 2017, in Diamond Bar. Comments are due June 27, 2017. Contact: Michael Krause; South Coast AQMD; 909-396-2706; mkrause@aqmd.gov

—California RegionsRegulations (05/31/2017)

Regulatory Update

AIR

Particulate Emissions from Soils with Toxic Air Contaminants

California Regions AIR

Notice of the South Coast Air Quality Management District announces a hearing on a proposed rule to adopt regulations under Rule 1466 to establish requirements for the control of particulate matter emissions from soils with toxic air contaminants resulting from earth-moving activities at cleanup sites. The rule establishes an ambient dust limit and dust control measures at cleanup sites and requires notification when cleanup operations begin and when emission limits are exceeded. The rule also requires signage at sites, sets forth additional requirements for sites near schools and early education centers, and permits the use of alternative dust control measures. The rule applies to earth-moving activities at sites that have been designated as cleanup sites by the U.S. EPA, Department of Toxic Substances Control, State Water Resources Control Board or Regional Water Quality Control Board or sites for which the district has information that the soil contains levels of certain toxic air contaminants that exceed DTSC soil clean-up thresholds. The hearing is scheduled for July 7, 2017, in Diamond Bar. Comments are due June 27, 2017. Contact: Uyen-Uyen Vo; South Coast AQMD, Planning, Rule Development and Area Sources; 909-396-2238; uvo@aqmd.gov

—California RegionsRegulations (05/31/2017)

Regulatory Update

AIR

Petroleum Refinery Emission Limits

California Regions AIR

Notice of the Bay Area Air Quality Management District announces revisions to and an additional hearing on a proposed rule to adopt regulations under Rule 12-16 regarding petroleum refining facilitywide emission limits. The initial proposal would have limited emissions of greenhouse gases (GHGs), particulate matter (PM-2.5 and PM-10), nitrogen oxides, and sulfur dioxide from petroleum refineries and associated facilities by setting a maximum annual emission rate based on emissions reported during a 2010-2014 baseline period, plus a 7 percent additional allowance. The revised proposed rule establishes a cap on GHG emissions from petroleum refineries and associated facilities. The notice specifies that the district will develop rulemaking to reduce emissions of criteria pollutants, including PM emissions, from refineries by 20 percent by 2020 at a later date. The hearing is scheduled for June 21, 2017, in San Francisco. Comments are due June 12, 2017. Contact: Victor Douglas; Bay Area AQMD, Rule Development Section; 415-749-4752; vdouglas@baaqmd.gov

—California RegionsRegulations (06/06/2017)

Regulatory Update

Florida

AIR
Stationary Sources/Forms and Instructions
Florida AIR

Final rule of the Department of Environmental Protection amends regulations under FAC 62-210.900 regarding forms and instructions for stationary sources. The rule revises the instructions for the annual operating report for air pollutant emitting facilities and for two air permit application forms to update pollutant identification codes. The rule is effective June 22, 2017. Contact: Cindy Phillips; DEP, Division of Air Resource Management; 850-717-9098; Cindy.Phillips@dep.state.fl.us

—Florida Administrative Weekly (06/06/2017)

Regulatory Update

WATER
Southwest Florida WMD/Minimum Flows for the Rainbow River System
Florida WATER

Notice of the Southwest Florida Water Management District announces the withdrawal of an April 14, 2017, proposed rule that would have amended regulations under FAC 40D-8.041 to establish minimum flows for the Rainbow River System in Marion County. Contact: Melissa Gulvin; SWFWMD; 352-796-7211; melissa.gulvin@watermatters.org

—Florida Administrative Weekly (06/06/2017)

Regulatory Update

New Jersey

OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH
Safety and Health Standards for Public Employees/Hazard Communication
New Jersey OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH

Adopted special rule of the Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Division of Public Safety and Occupational Safety and Health, amends regulations under NJAC 12:100-4.2 regarding safety and health standards for public employees. The rule incorporates updated federal standards under 29 CFR 1910 concerning hazard communication. The rule is effective June 5,

2017, and expires Nov. 21, 2017. Contact: DLWD, Office of Public Employees' Occupational Safety and Health; 609-633-3896; peosha@dol.state.nj.us

—New Jersey Register (06/05/2017)

Regulatory Update

Oregon

AIR
Air Pollution/Asbestos Survey Exemption
Oregon AIR

Proposed rule of the Department of Environmental Quality amends regulations under OAR 340-200-0040 to update the Lane Regional Air Protection Agency's asbestos standards. The rule revises the residential construction date by which homes are exempt from the asbestos survey requirement. A hearing is scheduled for June 8, 2017, in Springfield. Comments are due June 8, 2017. Contact: Meyer Goldstein; DEQ; 503-229-6478

—Oregon Bulletin (06/01/2017)

Regulatory Update

ENDANGERED SPECIES
Threatened and Endangered Species/Borax Lake Chub, Foskett Spring Speckled Dace
Oregon ENDANGERED SPECIES

Final rule of the Department of Fish and Wildlife amends regulations under OAR 635-100-0125 to reclassify the Borax Lake Chub from endangered to threatened and to remove the Foskett Spring Speckled Dace from the state list of threatened and endangered species. The rule is effective April 25, 2017. Contact: Michelle Tate; DFW; 503-947-6044

—Oregon Bulletin (06/01/2017)

Regulatory Update

GENERAL ENVIRONMENT AND SAFETY
Removal-Fill Authorizations/Ocean Renewable Energy Facilities
Oregon GENERAL ENVIRONMENT AND SAFETY

Proposed rule of the Department of State Lands amends regulations under OAR 141-085-0510 through -140-130 (nonconsecutive) and adopts regulations under OAR 141-093-0330 through -140-0115 (nonconsecutive) regarding the placement of ocean renewable energy facilities and devices in the territorial sea. The rule establishes seafloor data sharing requirements and revises financial assurance and civil penalties for such projects. The rule also addresses authorization for ocean renewable energy facilities used as components of research projects or demonstration projects that produce ocean renewable energy. Hearings are scheduled for June 20, 21, and 28, 2017, in North Bend, Newport, and Astoria, respectively. Comments are due July 14, 2017.

Contact: Sabrina Foward; DSL; 503-986-5236; rules@dsl.state.or.us

—Oregon Bulletin (06/01/2017)

Regulatory Update

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS TRANSPORTATION
Transportation of Hazardous Materials
Oregon HAZARDOUS MATERIALS TRANSPORTATION

Proposed rule of the Department of Transportation, Motor Carrier Transportation Division, amends regulations under OAR 740-100-0010 through -110-0010 (nonconsecutive) regarding motor carrier safety and hazardous materials. The rule updates the version of federal and international standards incorporated by reference, including federal motor carrier safety and hazardous materials transportation standards and international standards for driver, vehicle, and hazardous materials out-of-service requirements. Comments are due June 21, 2016. Contact: Lauri Kunze; DOT, Motor Carrier Transportation Division; 503-986-3171

—Oregon Bulletin (06/01/2017)

Regulatory Update

WATER
Watershed Enhancement Board Education and Outreach Grants
Oregon WATER

Proposed rule of the Watershed Enhancement Board adopts regulations under OAR 695-015 to establish a stakeholder engagement grant program to carry out eligible restoration or acquisition projects. The rule sets forth eligibility and evaluation criteria, application requirements, and the regional review and staff funding recommendation processes. The rule also addresses board funding decisions, grant agreement conditions, and waiver and periodic review of rules. Hearings are scheduled for March 15 and 30, 2017, in Sisters and Eugene, respectively. Comments are due June 30, 2017. Contact: Eric Hartstein; WEB; 503-986-0029

—Oregon Bulletin (06/01/2017)

Regulatory Update

WATER
Watershed Enhancement Board Grant Program and Restoration Grant Program
Oregon WATER

Final rule of the Watershed Enhancement Board amends regulations under OAR 695-005-0010, -005-0030, -005-0040, -005-0050, -005-0060, -010-0020, and -010-0060 regarding the grant program and restoration grant program. The rule revises provisions for accepting and administering grants and clarifies evaluation criteria for restoration grants. The rule is effective May 2, 2017. Contact: Eric Hartstein; WEB; 503-986-0029

—Oregon Bulletin (06/01/2017)

Regulatory Update

Utah

AIR
Air Permits for New and Modified Sources
Utah AIR

Notice of the Department of Environmental Quality, Division of Air Quality, announces the five-year review and continuation of regulations under R307-401 regarding permitting for new and modified sources. The rule addresses requirements for owners or operators of a source to provide notice to the department. The action is effective May 15, 2017. Contact: Ryan Stephens; DEQ, Division of Air Quality; 801-536-4419; rstephens@utah.gov

—Utah State Bulletin (06/01/2017)

Regulatory Update

AIR
Air Permits/Acid Rain Sources
Utah AIR

Notice of the Department of Environmental Quality, Division of Air Quality, announces the five-year review and continuation of regulations under R307-417 that incorporate by reference federal standards under 40 CFR 72 regarding permit requirements under the acid rain program. The action is effective May 15, 2017. Contact: Ryan Stephens; DEQ, Division of Air Quality; 801-536-4419; rstephens@utah.gov

—Utah State Bulletin (06/01/2017)

Regulatory Update

AIR
Air Permits/Emissions Impact Analysis
Utah AIR

Notice of the Department of Environmental Quality, Division of Air Quality, announces the five-year review and continuation of regulations under R307-410 regarding requirements for an emissions impact analysis from sources to determine what amount of pollution will contribute to a federal air quality standard violation. The action is effective May 15, 2017. Contact: Ryan Stephens; DEQ, Division of Air Quality; 801-536-4419; rstephens@utah.gov

—Utah State Bulletin (06/01/2017)

Regulatory Update

AIR
Air Permits/Fees for Approval Orders
Utah AIR

Notice of the Department of Environmental Quality, Division of Air Quality, announces the five-year review and continuation of regulations under R307-414 regarding procedures, including fee payment, for the administration of the air quality permitting program. The action is effective May 15, 2017. Contact: Ryan Stephens; DEQ, Division of Air Quality; 801-536-4419; rstephens@utah.gov

—Utah State Bulletin (06/01/2017)

Regulatory Update

AIR
Air Permits/Mercury Requirements for Electric Generating Units
Utah AIR

Notice of the Department of Environmental Quality, Division of Air Quality, announces the five-year review and continuation of regulations under R307-424 regarding mercury emission standards for coal-fired electric generating units. The action is effective May 15, 2017. Contact: Ryan Stephens; DEQ, Division of Air Quality; 801-536-4419; rstephens@utah.gov

—Utah State Bulletin (06/01/2017)

Regulatory Update

AIR
Air Permits/Ozone Offset Requirements in Davis and Salt Lake Counties
Utah AIR

Notice of the Department of Environmental Quality, Division of Air Quality, announces the five-year review and continuation of regulations under R307-420 regarding requirements that sources of air pollution offset increases in emissions before getting an approval order to construct, modify, or relocate under R307-401. The action is effective May 15, 2017. Contact: Ryan Stephens; DEQ, Division of Air Quality; 801-536-4419; rstephens@utah.gov

—Utah State Bulletin (06/01/2017)

Regulatory Update

AIR
Air Permits/PM-10 Offset Requirements in Salt Lake and Utah Counties
Utah AIR

Notice of the Department of Environmental Quality, Division of Air Quality, announces the five-year review and continuation of regulations under R307-421 regarding emission offset requirements to minimize the growth of particulate matter (PM-10) precursor emissions in Salt Lake and Utah counties. The action is effective May 15, 2017. Contact: Ryan Stephens; DEQ, Division of Air Quality; 801-536-4419; rstephens@utah.gov

—Utah State Bulletin (06/01/2017)

Regulatory Update

AIR
Air Permits/Sources in Nonattainment Areas and Maintenance Areas
Utah AIR

Notice of the Department of Environmental Quality, Division of Air Quality, announces the five-year review and continuation of regulations under R307-403 regarding permits for new and modified sources in nonattainment areas and maintenance areas. The action is effective May 15, 2017. Contact: Ryan Stephens; DEQ, Division of Air Quality; 801-536-4419; rstephens@utah.gov

—Utah State Bulletin (06/01/2017)

Regulatory Update

AIR
Emergency Air Pollution Controls
Utah AIR

Notice of the Department of Environmental Quality, Division of Air Quality, announces the five-year review and continuation of regulations under R307-105 regarding the levels of air pollutants that create an emergency and other factors used in determining the existence of an emergency. The action is effective May 15, 2017. Contact: Ryan Stephens; DEQ, Division of Air Quality; 801-536-4419; rstephens@utah.gov

—Utah State Bulletin (06/01/2017)

Regulatory Update

AIR
National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants
Utah AIR

Notice of the Department of Environmental Quality, Division of Air Quality, announces the five-year review and continuation of regulations under R307-214 that incorporate by reference federal standards regarding national emission standards for hazardous air pollutants. The action is effective May 15, 2017. Contact: Ryan Stephens; DEQ, Division of Air Quality; 801-536-4419; rstephens@utah.gov

—Utah State Bulletin (06/01/2017)

Regulatory Update

AIR
Operating Permit Requirements
Utah AIR

Notice of the Department of Environmental Quality, Division of Air Quality, announces the five-year review and continuation of regulations under R307-415 regarding permitting requirements under the Clean Air Act Title V permitting program and applicable emissions fees. The action is effective May 15, 2017. Contact: Ryan Stephens; DEQ, Division of Air Quality; 801-536-4419;

rstephens@utah.gov

—Utah State Bulletin (06/01/2017)

Regulatory Update

AIR
Visibility at Class I Areas
Utah AIR

Notice of the Department of Environmental Quality, Division of Air Quality, announces the five-year review and continuation of regulations under R307-406 regarding visibility at Class I areas, including several national parks. The action is effective May 15, 2017. Contact: Ryan Stephens; DEQ, Division of Air Quality; 801-536-4419; rstephens@utah.gov

—Utah State Bulletin (06/01/2017)

Regulatory Update

GENERAL ENVIRONMENT AND SAFETY
Wells Used for Geothermal Energy
Utah GENERAL ENVIRONMENT AND SAFETY

Notice of the Department of Natural Resources, Division of Water Rights, announces the five-year review and continuation of regulations under R655-1 that require all wells used for the discovery and production of water for the geothermal energy production of water to be drilled, operated, maintained, and abandoned in a manner as to safeguard life, health, property, and the public welfare and to encourage maximum economic recovery. The action is effective May 5, 2017. Contact: Marianne Burbidge; DNR, Division of Water Rights; 801-538-7370; marianneburbidge@utah.gov

—Utah State Bulletin (06/01/2017)

Regulatory Update

HAZARDOUS WASTE MANAGEMENT
Hazardous Waste Generators
Utah HAZARDOUS WASTE MANAGEMENT

Proposed rule of the Department of Environmental Quality, Division of Waste Management and Radiation Control, amends regulations under R315-262-10 through -17 (nonconsecutive), adopts regulations under R315-262-1 through -265 (nonconsecutive), and repeals regulations under R315-262-12 and -34 regarding requirements for hazardous waste generators to align with Nov. 28, 2016, amendments to the federal Hazardous Waste Generator Improvements Rule under 40 CFR 262. The rule revises generator requirements and changes the title of the lowest category of hazardous waste generation from "conditionally exempt small quantity generator" to "very small quantity generator." Comments are due July 3, 2017. Contact: Rusty Lundberg; DEQ, Division of Waste Management and Radiation Control; 801-536-4257; rlundberg@utah.gov

—Utah State Bulletin (06/01/2017)

Regulatory Update

OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH
Buildings Under the Jurisdiction of the State Fire Prevention Board
Utah OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH

Notice of the Department of Public Safety, Office of the State Fire Marshal, announces the five-year review and continuation of regulations under R710-4 regarding buildings under the jurisdiction of the State Fire Prevention Board. The action is effective May 3, 2017. Contact: Ted Black; DPS, Office of the State Fire Marshal; 801-284-6352; tblack@utah.gov

—Utah State Bulletin (06/01/2017)

Regulatory Update

WATER
Division of Water Rights/Informal Adjudicative Proceedings
Utah WATER

Notice of the Department of Natural Resources, Division of Water Rights, announces the five-year review and continuation of regulations under R655-6 regarding administrative procedures for informal proceedings before the division. The action is effective May 5, 2017. Contact: Marianne Burbidge; DNR, Division of Water Rights; 801-538-7370; marianneburbidge@utah.gov

—Utah State Bulletin (06/01/2017)

Regulatory Update

WATER
Wastewater Collection, Treatment, and Disposal Systems/Design Requirements
Utah WATER

Notice of the Department of Environmental Quality, Division of Water Quality, announces the five-year review and continuation of regulations under R317-3 regarding minimum design requirements for wastewater collection, treatment, and disposal systems. The action is effective May 9, 2017. Contact: Judy Etherington; DEQ, Division of Water Quality; 801-536-4344; jetherington@utah.gov

—Utah State Bulletin (06/01/2017)

Regulatory Update

WATER
Water Distribution Systems/Administrative Procedures
Utah WATER

Notice of the Department of Natural Resources, Division of Water Rights, announces the five-year review and continuation of regulations under R655-15 regarding administrative procedures for water distribution systems. The action is effective May 5, 2017. Contact: Marianne Burbidge; DNR, Division of Water Rights; 801-538-7370; marianneburbidge@utah.gov

—Utah State Bulletin (06/01/2017)

Regulatory Update

Virginia

AIR

SIP Revision/Definition of Volatile Organic Compound

Virginia AIR

Notice of the Department of Environmental Quality, Air Pollution Control Board, announces a proposed revision to the state implementation plan regarding amendments to regulations under 9 VAC 5-10 regarding general definitions. The revision updates the definition of volatile organic compound (VOC) to align with the current EPA definition by removing the recordkeeping, emissions reporting, photochemical dispersion modeling, and inventory requirements related to the use of t-butyl acetate as a VOC. The revision also adds 1,1,2,2-tetrafluoro-1-ethane to the list of substances not considered to be VOCs. The amendments were issued as fast-track rules on Oct. 31, 2016, and April 13, 2017. The revision will be submitted to the EPA for approval. Comments and hearing requests are due July 12, 2017. Contact: Karen Sabasteanski; DEQ; 804-698-4426; karen.sabasteanski@deq.virginia.gov

—Virginia Register (06/12/2017)

Regulatory Update

OIL AND GAS INDUSTRY

Gas and Oil Board

Virginia OIL AND GAS INDUSTRY

Proposed rule of the Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy amends regulations under 4 VAC 25-160-30, -40 and -110 regarding the Gas and Oil Board. The rule requires documents submitted to the board or the department be sent electronically and allows for additional methods of communication when certain notifications are required to be sent to other resource owners. The rule also specifies that when the location of a prospective gas or oil well is required to be published in a newspaper, the notice can include either a map or a description of the location. In addition, the rule clarifies that an affidavit must be submitted to the board to release a previous unit operator from responsibility as the unit operator. The rule, which is proposed for fast-track processing, is proposed to be effective July 27, 2017. Comments are due July 12, 2017. Contact: Michael Skiffington; DMME; 804-692-3212; mike.skiffington@dmme.virginia.gov

—Virginia Register (06/12/2017)

Regulatory Update

WATER

VPDES General Permit for Discharges from Pesticide Application

Virginia WATER

Notice announces the intention of the Department of Environmental Quality, State Water Control Board, to amend regulations under 9 VAC 25-800 to revise and reissue the Virginia Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (VPDES) general permit for discharges from the application of pesticides to surface waters, which expires Dec. 31, 2018. Comments are due July 12, 2017. Contact: Elleanore Daub; DEQ; 804-698-4111; elleanore.daub@deq.virginia.gov

—Virginia Register (06/12/2017)

Regulatory Update

WATER
Water Quality Management Planning Regulation
Virginia WATER

Notice announces the intention of the State Water Control Board to amend regulations under 9 VAC 25-720-60C regarding water quality management planning. The proposed amendments reduce the existing total nitrogen wasteload allocation for the Dominion-Chesterfield Plant by 80,000 pounds and add a total nitrogen wasteload allocation of 80,000 pounds to the Tranlin Inc./Vastly Facility, both located in the James River Basin. A meeting is scheduled for June 28, 2017, in Richmond. Comments are due July 12, 2017. Contact: William Norris; DEQ, Office of Regulatory Affairs; 804-698-4022; william.norris@deq.virginia.gov

—Virginia Register (06/12/2017)

Regulatory Update

West Virginia

HAZARDOUS WASTE CLEANUP
Voluntary Remediation and Redevelopment Rule
West Virginia HAZARDOUS WASTE CLEANUP

Proposed rule of the Department of Environmental Protection amends regulations under 60 WVCSR 3 regarding voluntary remediation and redevelopment. The rule consolidates and updates provisions of the Brownfields Revolving Fund Program, updates procedures for establishing loan interest rates, and revises the purposes for which funds may be used. The rule also updates definitions and removes the requirement to submit hard-copy documents and reports in certain instances. A hearing is scheduled for July 6, 2017, in Charleston. Comments are due July 6, 2017. Contact: Patricia Hickman; DEP, Division of Land Restoration; 304-926-0499

—West Virginia Register (06/05/2017)

Regulatory Update

HAZARDOUS WASTE MANAGEMENT
Hazardous Waste Management System
West Virginia HAZARDOUS WASTE MANAGEMENT

Proposed rule of the Department of Environmental Protection, Division of Water and Waste Management, amends regulations under 33 WVCSR 20 regarding the hazardous waste management system to incorporate by reference July 1, 2017, federal standards under 40 CFR 260 through 279. The rule allows generators of episodic waste to avoid higher generator status requirements if the episodic waste continues to be properly managed. The rule also adds emergency management communication requirements and allows very small-quantity generators to send hazardous waste to a large-quantity generator if both are under the control of the same person. In addition, the rule revises the definition of solid waste to clarify recycling standards for hazardous secondary materials. A hearing is scheduled for July 6, 2017, in Charleston. Comments are due July 6, 2017. Contact: Julie Wandling; DEP, Division of Water and Waste Management; 304-926-0495

—West Virginia Register (06/05/2017)

Regulatory Update

HAZARDOUS WASTE MANAGEMENT
Underground Storage Tanks
West Virginia HAZARDOUS WASTE MANAGEMENT

Proposed rule of the Department of Environmental Protection, Division of Water and Waste Management, amends regulations under 33 WVCSR 30 regarding underground storage tanks (USTs). The rule incorporates by reference July 15, 2015, federal standards under 40 CFR 280 regarding corrective action requirements and technical standards for owners and operators of USTs. The rule also adds provisions concerning adjustment of certification fees and updates certification and training requirements for operators and personnel. A hearing is scheduled for July 6, 2017, in Charleston. Comments are due July 6, 2017. Contact: Joe Sizemore; DEP, Division of Water and Waste Management; 304-926-0495

—West Virginia Register (06/05/2017)

Regulatory Update

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EHS State Regulatory Alert

To: Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
From: Bloomberg BNA
Sent: Thur 6/8/2017 12:30:52 PM
Subject: June 08 -- EHS Federal Regulatory Alert

EHS Federal Regulatory Alert

June 08, 2017 - Number 109

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Summaries

AIR
California SIP/Imperial County Large Confined Animal Facilities
AIR

Final rule of the EPA amends regulations under 40 CFR 52.220 to approve revisions to the Imperial County Air Pollution Control District portion of the California SIP regarding emissions of volatile organic compounds and particulate matter from large confined animal facilities (LCAFs). The revisions address LCAF required permits, exemptions, and related definitions. The rule is effective July 10, 2017. Contact: Nancy Levin; EPA Region 9; 415-972-3848, levin.nancy@epa.gov

82 FR 26594 (06/08/2017)

Regulatory Update

AIR
Idaho, Utah/Logan PM-2.5 Nonattainment Area Extension of Attainment Dates
AIR

Proposed rule of the EPA amends regulations under 40 CFR 52 to grant two, one-year extensions to the moderate attainment date for the Idaho portion of the Logan, Utah-Idaho, 2006 24-hour fine particulate matter (PM-2.5) NAAQS nonattainment area. In response to requests from Idaho and Utah, the rule extends the attainment date from Dec. 31, 2015, to Dec. 31, 2016, and then to Dec. 31, 2017. The rule also provides that the nonattainment area will remain a moderate PM-2.5 area, with a moderate area attainment date of Dec. 31, 2017. In addition, the rule specifies that Idaho and Utah will not have to submit additional planning requirements for serious PM-2.5 nonattainment areas unless there is a failure to attain the moderate standard by the extended date and the area is reclassified to a serious nonattainment area. The EPA will make a determination regarding attainment within six months of the applicable attainment date. A related June 6, 2017, proposed rule (82 FR 25992) would extend the attainment date for the Utah portion of the nonattainment area. Comments are due July 10, 2017. Contact: Jeff Hunt; EPA Region 10, Air Planning Unit; 206-553-0256; hunt.jeff@epa.gov

82 FR 26638 (06/08/2017)

Regulatory Update

AIR
Texas SIP/Emissions Banking and Trading Programs
AIR

Proposed rule of the EPA amends regulations under 40 CFR 52 to approve revisions to the Texas SIP regarding emissions banking and trading programs. The revisions clarify and expand the Emission Credit and Discrete Emission Credit programs specific to the generation and use of emission credits from area and mobile sources. The EPA is proposing to approve the SIP revision after Texas approves its parallel state rulemaking process. Comments are due July 10, 2017. Contact: Adina Wiley, EPA Region 6; 214-665-2115; wiley.adina@epa.gov

82 FR 26634 (06/08/2017)

Regulatory Update

AIR
Texas SIP/VOCs, Emissions Inventories
AIR

Direct final rule of the EPA amends regulations under 40 CFR 52.2270 to approve revisions to the Texas SIP to exclude specified organic compounds from the state's definition of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) to align with the current EPA definition. The revisions also reduce the threshold for lead that requires sources to annually complete an emissions inventory, reduce the distance from the shoreline for applicable offshore sources to complete an emission inventory, and update terminology and definitions associated with emissions inventories. The rule is effective Sep. 6, 2017, unless adverse comments are received by July 10, 2017. Contact: Nevine Salem; EPA Region 6; 214-665-7222; salem.nevine@epa.gov

82 FR 26596 (06/08/2017)

Regulatory Update

AIR
Texas SIP/VOCs, Emissions Inventories
AIR

Proposed rule of the EPA amends regulations under 40 CFR 52.2270 to approve revisions to the Texas SIP to exclude specified organic compounds from the state's definition of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) to align with the current EPA definition. The revisions also reduce the threshold for lead that requires sources to annually complete an emissions inventory, reduce the distance from the shoreline for applicable offshore sources to complete an emission inventory, and update terminology and definitions associated with emissions inventories. A concurrent direct final rule adopts the provisions, effective Sep. 6, 2017. Comments are due July 10, 2017. Contact: Nevine Salem; EPA Region 6; 214-665-7222; salem.nevine@epa.gov

82 FR 26634 (06/08/2017)

Regulatory Update

GENERAL ENVIRONMENT AND SAFETY
Bacteriophage Therapy Workshop
GENERAL ENVIRONMENT AND SAFETY

Notice of the Food and Drug Administration, Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research, in cooperation with the National Institutes of Health, National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, announces a workshop regarding bacteriophage therapy scientific and regulatory issues. The workshop is intended to facilitate the development and rigorous clinical assessment of bacteriophage therapy products. The workshop is scheduled for July 10-11, 2017, in Rockville, Md. Contact: James Ginther; FDA, Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research; 240-402-8010; CBERPublicEvents@fda.hhs.gov

82 FR 26691 (06/08/2017)

Regulatory Update

GENERAL ENVIRONMENT AND SAFETY
Electric Utilities/Geomagnetic Disturbance Events Preliminary Work Plan
GENERAL ENVIRONMENT AND SAFETY

Notice of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission announces the availability of a preliminary work plan to conduct research on topics related to geomagnetic disturbances and their impacts on the reliability of the Bulk-Power System. The notice specifies that the plan has been submitted pursuant to FERC Order Number 830 (81 FR 67120; 09/30/2016), which approved the Reliability Standard TPL-007-1, Transmission System Planned Performance for Geomagnetic Disturbance (GMD) Events, developed by the North American Electric Reliability Corp. Comments, protests, or motions to intervene are due June 23, 2017. Contact: FERC; 866-208-3676; FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov

82 FR 26676 (06/08/2017)

Regulatory Update

GENERAL ENVIRONMENT AND SAFETY
Gulf of Mexico/Delfin Deepwater Port
GENERAL ENVIRONMENT AND SAFETY

Notice of the Department of Energy, Office of Fossil Energy, announces the availability of the record of decision (ROD) and floodplain statement of findings for a license application from Delfin LNG LLC, of Dallas, for the Delfin Liquefaction Project Deepwater Port. The applicant seeks authorization to export approximately 657.5 billion cubic feet per year of domestically produced liquefied natural gas by vessel for a 20-year term from its proposed floating liquefaction facility to be located in West Cameron Block 167 in the Gulf of Mexico, offshore of Cameron Parish, La. The applicant seeks to export the LNG to any country with which the U.S. does not have a free trade agreement requiring national treatment for trade in natural gas, and with which trade is not prohibited by U.S. law or policy. The project would consist of four semi-permanently moored floating liquefied natural gas vessels and new pipelines, two existing offshore natural gas pipelines, and onshore components. The ROD announces the DOE's finding that the proposed project is the environmentally preferable alternative and requires implementation of best

management practices, mitigation measures, and conditions in the Maritime Administration's ROD for the project and the forthcoming deepwater port license. A June 1, 2017, order of the DOE (Order No. 4028), authorizes Delfin to export the LNG for a 20-year term, commencing on the date of first commercial export or June 1, 2024. Contact: Kyle Moorman; DOE, Office of Fossil Energy; 202-586-5600

82 FR 26672 (06/08/2017)

Regulatory Update

GENERAL ENVIRONMENT AND SAFETY
Louisiana/Cross-Media Electronic Reporting
GENERAL ENVIRONMENT AND SAFETY

Notice of the EPA announces the approval of a request from Louisiana concerning cross-media electronic reporting requirements. The approval authorizes the state to revise its EPA-authorized programs to allow electronic reporting as part of its national primary drinking water regulations implementation program (40 CFR 141 and 142). The approval is effective July 10, 2017, if no hearing requests are received by that date. Contact: Karen Seeh; EPA, Office of Environmental Information; 202-566-1175; seeh.karen@epa.gov

82 FR 26687 (06/08/2017)

Regulatory Update

GENERAL ENVIRONMENT AND SAFETY
Tennessee Valley Authority NEPA Implementing Procedures
GENERAL ENVIRONMENT AND SAFETY

Proposed rule of the Tennessee Valley Authority adopts regulations under 18 CFR 1318.10 through 1318.605 and Appendix A to update and codify the agency's procedures for implementing the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The rule updates organizational references and reflects modern notification and communication methods. The rule also revises the list of categorical exclusions to include common actions demonstrated to have little effect on the human environment and to remove categorical exclusions for actions that TVA rarely or no longer undertakes. In addition, the rule incorporates federal flood risk management standards and the process for soliciting and considering stakeholder input required by Executive Order 13690 (81 FR 91150; 12/16/2016). Comments are due Aug. 7, 2017. Contact: Matthew Higdon; TVA; 865-632-8051; mshigdon@tva.gov

82 FR 26620 (06/08/2017)

Regulatory Update

GENERAL ENVIRONMENT AND SAFETY
U.S. Coast Guard/Regulations, Guidance Documents, Interpretative Documents
GENERAL ENVIRONMENT AND SAFETY

Notice of the U.S. Coast Guard announces a request for comments on guidance documents; interpretative documents; information collections; and regulations under 33 CFR 1 through 199, 46 CFR 1 through 499 (nonconsecutive), and 49 CFR 400 through 499 regarding navigation and

navigable waters, shipping, and transportation. The information collected will be used to support efforts within the Department of Homeland Security's Regulatory Reform Task Force to identify regulations that eliminate jobs, are outdated or ineffective, or impose costs that exceed benefits. The request is in response to Executive Order 13771 (82 FR 9339; 02/03/2017), Executive Order 13777 (82 FR 12285; 03/01/2017), and Executive Order 13783 (82 FR 16093; 03/31/2017). Comments are due July 10, 2017. Contact: Adam Sydnor; USCG; 202-372-1490; Adam.B.Sydnor@uscg.mil

82 FR 26632 (06/08/2017)

Regulatory Update

GENERAL ENVIRONMENT AND SAFETY
Vermont/Cross-Media Electronic Reporting
GENERAL ENVIRONMENT AND SAFETY

Notice of the EPA announces the approval of a request from Vermont concerning cross-media electronic reporting requirements. The approval authorizes the state to revise its EPA-authorized programs to allow electronic reporting as part of its programs under 40 CFR 52, 60, 62, 63, 70, 123, 142, 145, 239, 271, 281, and 403 regarding the state implementation plan, NSPS, NESHAPs, operating permit programs, drinking water, underground injection control, hazardous waste, underground storage tanks, and general pretreatment standards. The approval is effective June 10, 2017, if no hearing requests are received by that date. Contact: Karen Seeh; EPA, Office of Environmental Information; 202-566-1175; seeh.karen@epa.gov

82 FR 26680 (06/08/2017)

Regulatory Update

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS TRANSPORTATION
Transportation Infrastructure/Policy, Guidance, and Regulation Review
HAZARDOUS MATERIALS TRANSPORTATION

Notice of the Department of Transportation, Office of the Secretary of Transportation, announces a request for input regarding its existing policy statements, guidance documents, and regulations to identify unnecessary obstacles to transportation infrastructure projects. The notice requests stakeholders and the public to identify nonstatutory requirements the department imposes that should be removed or revised. Comments are due July 24, 2017. Contact: Michael Smith; DOT, Office of the General Counsel; 202-366-2917; michael.a.smith@dot.gov

82 FR 26734 (06/08/2017)

Regulatory Update

HAZARDOUS WASTE CLEANUP
U.S. Virgin Islands/Tutu Wellfield Superfund Site
HAZARDOUS WASTE CLEANUP

Notice of the Department of Justice announces a proposed consent decree in United States v. Cyril V. Francois Associates LLC (Civil Action No.3:17-cv-38), lodged on June 1, 2017, with the U.S. District Court of the Virgin Islands. The consent decree resolves claims under CERCLA

regarding the Tutu Wellfield Superfund Site in St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands. The consent decree requires Cyril V. Francois to pay $300,000 to reimburse past response costs of the U.S. at the site. Comments are due July 10, 2017. Contact: DOJ, Environment and Natural Resources Division; 202-514-2701

82 FR 26713 (06/08/2017)

Regulatory Update

PESTICIDES
Experimental Use Permit/Bacillus Thuringiensis Cry14Ab-1 Protein
PESTICIDES

Notice of the EPA announces the receipt of an application (264-EUP-RLR) from Bayer CropScience LP, of Research Triangle Park, N.C., requesting an experimental use permit for use of the Bacillus thuringiensis Cry14Ab-1 protein and the genetic material necessary for its production in soybean. The applicant proposes to test two transformation events (GMB471 and GMB151) in soybean, each containing the new plant-incorporated protectant active ingredient Cry14Ab-1 protein. Comments are due July 10, 2017. Contact: Robert McNally; EPA, Office of Pesticide Programs; 703-305-7090; BPPDFRNotices@epa.gov

82 FR 26685 (06/08/2017)

Regulatory Update

PESTICIDES
Pesticide Product Registrations
PESTICIDES

Notice of the EPA announces the receipt of eight applications to register new uses for pesticide products containing five currently registered active ingredients. The applications, submitted by Syngenta Crop Protection LLC, E.I. du Pont de Nemours and Co., Gowan Co., and Nichino America Inc., are for two fungicides and six insecticides proposed for use on various agricultural products. Comments are due July 10, 2017. Contact: Robert McNally; EPA, Office of Pesticide Programs; 703-305-7090; BPPDFRNotices@epa.gov

82 FR 26679 (06/08/2017)

Regulatory Update

PESTICIDES
Pesticide Product Registrations/New Active Ingredients
PESTICIDES

Notice of the EPA announces the receipt of six applications to register pesticide products containing active ingredients not included in any currently registered products. Three of the applications are from Monsanto Co., of Washington, D.C., for plant growth regulators, and two of the applications are from ISCA Technologies, of Riverside, Calif., for straight chain lepidopteran pheromones. Comments are due July 10, 2017. Contact: Michal Goodis; EPA, Office of Pesticide Programs; 703-305-7090; BPPDFRNotices@epa.gov

82 FR 26685 (06/08/2017)

Regulatory Update

PESTICIDES
Pesticide Tolerance Petitions
PESTICIDES

Notice of the EPA announces the receipt of initial filings of petitions to amend regulations under 40 CFR 174 to establish or modify tolerance exemptions for residues of certain pesticides in or on various food commodities. The notice includes filings by Bayer CropScience LP, of Research Triangle Park, N.C., for a temporary tolerance exemption for residues of the plant-incorporated protectant (PIP) Bacillus thuringiensis Cry14Ab-1 in or on soybean, and a tolerance exemption for the PIP inert ingredient 4-hydroxyphenyl pyruvate deoxygenase in all food commodities. Comments are due July 10, 2017. Contact: Robert McNally; EPA, Office of Pesticide Programs; 703-305-7090; BPPDFRNotices@epa.gov

82 FR 26639 (06/08/2017)

Regulatory Update

PESTICIDES
Pesticide Tolerance Petitions
PESTICIDES

Notice of the EPA announces the receipt of initial filings of petitions to amend regulations under 40 CFR 180 to establish new and amended tolerances and exemptions for residues of certain pesticides in or on various food commodities. The notice includes 20 filings for new and amended tolerances and tolerance exemptions for inerts and noninerts, including exceptions for plant incorporated protectants. Comments are due July 10, 2017. Contact: Michael Goodis; EPA, Office of Pesticide Programs; 703-305-7090; RDFRNotices@epa.gov

82 FR 26641 (06/08/2017)

Regulatory Update

PESTICIDES
Pesticide Tolerance/Triclopyr
PESTICIDES

Final rule of the EPA amends regulations under 40 CFR 180.417 to establish a time-limited tolerance of 40 parts per million for residues of the herbicide triclopyr in or on sugarcane. The rule is issued in response to the EPA's granting of an emergency exemption under FIFRA Section 18 to the state of Louisiana for control of the non-native plant Merrill's nightshade. The rule is effective June 8, 2017. Objections and hearing requests are due Aug. 7, 2017. Contact: Michael Goodis; EPA, Office of Pesticide Programs; 703-305-7090; RDFRNotices@epa.gov

82 FR 26599 (06/08/2017)

Regulatory Update

TOXIC SUBSTANCES
National Toxicology Program Technical Reports for Peer Review
TOXIC SUBSTANCES

Notice of the National Institutes of Health announces the availability of three draft National Toxicology Program technical reports scheduled for peer review for the chemical substances p-chloro-α,α,α-trifluorotoluene; dietary zinc; and 2,3-butanedione. A peer review meeting is scheduled for July 13, 2017, in Research Triangle Park, N.C., and via webcast. Comments are due July 6, 2017. Contact: Canden Byrd; ICF; 919-293-1660; canden.byrd@icf.com

82 FR 26697 (06/08/2017)

Regulatory Update

TOXIC SUBSTANCES
Significant New Use Rule for Chemical Substance
TOXIC SUBSTANCES

Proposed rule of the EPA adopts regulations under 40 CFR 721.10927 to establish a significant new use rule under TSCA Section 5(a)(2) for a chemical substance (PMN-P-11-482) that was the subject of an premanufacture notice. The chemical substance is a bimodal mixture of multiwalled carbon nanotubes and other classes of carbon nanotubes that will be used as a specialty additive. The rule requires persons who intend to manufacture or process the chemical substance for an activity that is designated as a significant new use to notify the EPA 90 days before commencing such activity. Comments are due July 10, 2017. Contact: Kenneth Moss; EPA, Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics; 202-564–9232; moss.kenneth@epa.gov

82 FR 26644 (06/08/2017)

Regulatory Update

TOXIC SUBSTANCES
TSCA Premanufacture and Notice of Commencement
TOXIC SUBSTANCES

Notice of the EPA announces the availability of receipt and status information regarding 44 premanufacture notices and 12 notices of commencement to manufacture new chemicals received by the agency from March 1-31, 2017. Comments are due July 10, 2017. Contact: Jim Rahai; EPA, Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics; 202-564-8593; rahai.jim@epa.gov

82 FR 26681 (06/08/2017)

Regulatory Update

WATER
Clean Water Act Section 404 Permit Program/CFR Correction
WATER

Notice of the EPA announces a correction to regulations under 40 CFR 232.2, revised as of July 1, 2016, regarding exempt activities not requiring Clean Water Act Section 404 permits. The

correction removes the first definition of "Waters of the United States." Contact: EPA; 202-564-4700

82 FR 26603 (06/08/2017)

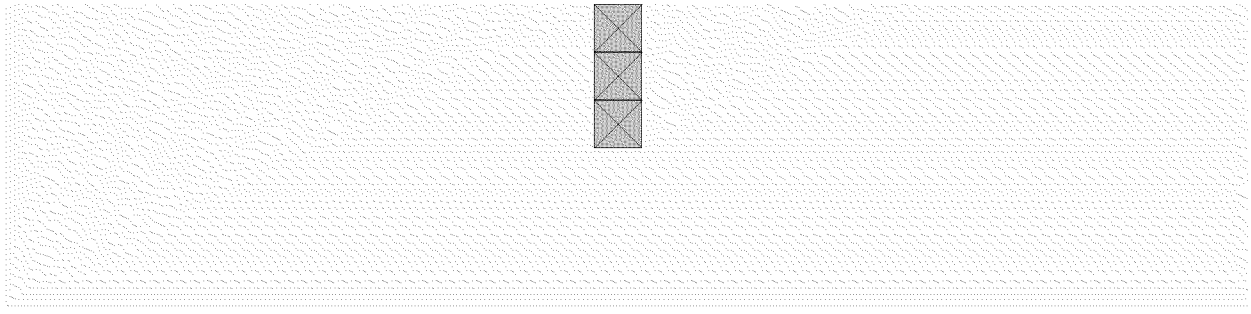
Regulatory Update

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EHS Federal Regulatory Alert

To: Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
From: American Security Today
Sent: Mon 9/18/2017 12:25:22 PM
Subject: US Tourist Acid Attack, Help FBI Catch a Killer, Trumps in FL, War Criminal Sentenced





To: Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
From: Bloomberg BNA
Sent: Mon 9/18/2017 12:02:58 PM
Subject: Sep. 18 -- EHS Federal Regulatory Alert

EHS Federal Regulatory Alert

September 18, 2017 - Number 179

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Summaries

AIR
Alabama SIP/PM-2.5 Infrastructure Requirements
AIR

Final rule of the EPA approves portions revisions to the Alabama SIP regarding infrastructure requirements for the 2012 particulate matter (PM-2.5) NAAQS. The rule approves the applicable requirements, with the exception of the interstate transport provisions regarding contribution to nonattainment or interference with maintenance (prongs 1 and 2), visibility protection (prong 4), and state board requirements, which will be addressed in separate rulemaking actions. The rule is effective Oct. 18, 2017. Contact: Tiereny Bell; EPA Region 4, Air Planning and Implementation Branch; 404-562-9088; bell.tiereny@epa.gov. Citations: 40 CFR 52.50

82 FR 43487 (09/18/2017)

Regulatory Update

AIR
Arkansas SIP/Minor New Source Review Program
AIR

Proposed rule of the EPA would approve portions of revisions to the Arkansas SIP to revise the minor new source review (NSR) program permitting thresholds and de minimis levels as well as supplemental information provided in 2015, 2016, and 2017. The EPA will address in future rulemakings remaining portions of revisions not directly related to minor NSR permitting thresholds and de minimis levels. Comments are due Oct. 18, 2017. Contact: Ashley Mohr; EPA Region 6; 214-665-7289; mohr.ashley@epa.gov. Citations: 40 CFR 52

82 FR 43506 (09/18/2017)

Regulatory Update

AIR
California/OCS Air Regulations
AIR

Final rule of the EPA revises Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) air requirements for areas offshore of California. The rule incorporates by reference Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District (APCD) and Ventura County APCD rules applicable to OCS sources located within 25 miles of the state's seaward boundaries. The rule is effective Oct. 18, 2017. Contact: Christine Vineyard; EPA Region 9, Air Division; 415-947-4125; vineyard.christine@epa.gov. Citations: 40 CFR 55.14, 55 Appendix A

82 FR 43491 (09/18/2017)

Regulatory Update

AIR
Cross-State Air Pollution Rule/New Unit Set-Aside Allowances
AIR

Notice of the EPA announces the availability of preliminary lists of units eligible for allocations of emission allowances for new electricity generating units under the Cross-State Air Pollution Rule (CSAPR). Spreadsheets posted on the agency's website show first-round 2017 new unit set-aside allocations of CSAPR NOx Annual, CSAPR NOx Ozone, and CSAPR SO2 Trading Programs. The agency also eliminated allocations of CSAPR SO2 Group 2 allowances to four units in Georgia that were incorrectly identified as new units instead of existing units in a June 21, 2017, notice (82 FR 28243). Contact: Robert Miller; EPA; 202-343-9077; miller.robertl@epa.gov. Citations: 40 CFR 97

82 FR 43537 (09/18/2017)

Regulatory Update

AIR
Kentucky SIP/Jefferson County Stage II Vapor Recovery Program
AIR

Final rule of the EPA approves revisions to the Kentucky SIP to remove Stage II vapor control requirements for new and upgraded gasoline dispensing facilities and allow for decommissioning of existing Stage II equipment in Jefferson County. The rule is effective Oct. 18, 2017. Contact: Kelly Sheckler; EPA Region 4, Air Planning and Implementation Branch; 404-562-9222; sheckler.kelly@epa.gov. Citations: 40 CFR 52.920

82 FR 43489 (09/18/2017)

Regulatory Update

FOOD SAFETY
New Animal Drug Applications, Change of Sponsor Address
FOOD SAFETY

Final rule of the FDA reflects the approval of three new animal drug applications (NADAs) and

abbreviated NADAs during March and April 2017. The rule also reflects a change of address of the sponsor, Pharmgate LLC, and makes technical revisions regarding dosage form drugs. In addition, the agency announces the availability of summaries of the basis of approval and of environmental review documents, where applicable. The rule is effective Sept. 18, 2017. Contact: George Haibel; FDA, Center for Veterinary Medicine; 240-402-5689; george.haibel@fda.hhs.gov. Citations: 21 CFR 510.600, 520.88g, 520.304, 522.304 through 522.2477 (nonconsecutive), 524.988, 558.4, 558.128, 558.625

82 FR 43482 (09/18/2017)

Regulatory Update

GENERAL ENVIRONMENT AND SAFETY
American Samoa/StarKist Co. Consent Decree
GENERAL ENVIRONMENT AND SAFETY

Notice of the Justice Department announces a proposed consent decree in United States v. StarKist Co. (Civil Action No. 2:17-cv-01190-DSC), lodged on Sept. 12, 2017, with the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania. The consent decree addresses alleged violations under the CAA, the CWA, EPCRA, and RCRA at the defendants' seafood processing and canning facility in American Samoa and requires the defendants to pay a $6.3 million civil penalty. The alleged CWA violations include unpermitted discharges of wastewater through an outfall rupture, violations of terms and conditions of the facility's NPDES permit, and violations of spill prevention control and countermeasures provisions related to the facility's oil storage tanks. The alleged violations also include CAA violations related to the handling of ammonia, butane, and chlorine at the facility and violations of the CAA, EPCRA, and RCRA that the defendants disclosed to the EPA following an audit. The consent decree also requires the defendants to perform injunctive relief and a supplemental environmental project. Comments are due Oct. 18, 2017. Contact: DOJ, Environment and Natural Resources Division; 202-514-2701

82 FR 43573 (09/18/2017)

Regulatory Update

GENERAL ENVIRONMENT AND SAFETY
Kentucky/Texas Gas Transmission Well Abandonment
GENERAL ENVIRONMENT AND SAFETY

Notice of FERC announces the filing of a prior notice request by Texas Gas Transmission LLC, of Houston, to plug and abandon injection/withdrawal well No. 17378, abandon in place approximately 1,050 feet of 4.5 inch storage well lateral line, and abandon by removal the side valve and associated above ground equipment in its Midland Storage Field in Muhlenberg County, Ky. The agency will complete an environmental assessment or issue a notice of schedule of environmental review by Dec. 11, 2017. Protests and motions to intervene are due Nov. 13, 2017. Contact: FERC, Office of External Affairs; 866-208-3676; FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov

82 FR 43533 (09/18/2017)

Regulatory Update

GENERAL ENVIRONMENT AND SAFETY

Solar Energy Technology Analysis and Data
GENERAL ENVIRONMENT AND SAFETY

Notice of the Energy Department, Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, announces a request for information regarding solar energy technology analysis and data resources. The Solar Energy Technologies Office is seeking to catalog information resources used by the U.S. solar industry stakeholders to make major business and policy decisions. The agency plans to use the information when developing resources such as information based network planning, real time optimization, and bankability tools to reach the DOE's SunShot 2030 goals. Comments are due Oct. 6, 2017. Contact: Casey Canfield; DOE, Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy; 202-287-1783; solaranalysis@ee.doe.gov

82 FR 43531 (09/18/2017)

Regulatory Update

OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH
Factors Influencing Influenza Transmission
OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH

Notice of the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health announces the submission of a revised information collection request to the OMB regarding the testing of airborne particles produced by adult participants for influenza and the measuring of levels of influenza infection-associated biomarkers in blood samples. The revisions modify the cough and exhalation-aerosol system and blood sample collection activities and increase participation time to 95 minutes. The revisions also include the testing of an equal number of subjects without symptoms and increase monetary compensation for participating to $40. Comments are due Oct. 18, 2017. Contact: Leroy Richardson; CDC, Office of Scientific Integrity; 404-639-7570; omb@cdc.gov

82 FR 43542 (09/18/2017)

Regulatory Update

OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH
Health Hazard Evaluation and Technical Assistance
OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH

Notice of the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health announces the submission of a revised information collection request to the OMB concerning health hazard evaluation (HHE) and technical assistance requests and emerging problems. The collection concerns the HHE form used by employees, employers, and other authorized representatives for participation in the HHE program to determine whether there is reasonable cause to justify conducting an investigation for identification of chemical, biological, or physical hazards in a workplace. The revisions reflect consolidation of clearance with follow-back information collection under the program. Comments are due Oct. 18, 2017. Contact: Leroy Richardson; CDC, Office of Scientific Integrity; 404-639-7570; omb@cdc.gov

82 FR 43546 (09/18/2017)

Regulatory Update

RADIATION

ACRS Subcommittee on Northwest Medical Isotopes Meeting

RADIATION

Notice of the NRC announces a meeting of the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards (ACRS) Subcommittee on Northwest Medical Isotopes to discuss the construction permit application preliminary safety analysis report and the draft NRC safety evaluation reports for a Mo99 radioisotope production facility. The meeting is scheduled for Sept. 21, 2017, in Rockville, Md. Comments are due Sept. 16, 2017. Contact: Kathy Weaver; NRC; 301-415-6236; Kathy.Weaver@nrc.gov

82 FR 43575 (09/18/2017)

Regulatory Update

RADIATION

ACRS Subcommittee on Plant Operations and Fire Protection Meeting

RADIATION

Notice of the NRC announces a meeting of the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguard's (ACRS) Subcommittee on Plant Operations and Fire Protection. The meeting includes analysis and discussion on relevant issues and facts to develop proposed positions and actions for deliberation by the ACRS committee. The meeting is scheduled for Sept. 20, 2017, in Rockville, Md. Comments are due Sept. 20, 2017. Contact: Quynh Nguyen; NRC; 301-415-5844; Quynh.Nguyen@nrc.gov

82 FR 43575 (09/18/2017)

Regulatory Update

TOXIC SUBSTANCES

IRIS Assessment Plans for Nitrate/Nitrite, Chloroform, and Ethylbenzene

TOXIC SUBSTANCES

Notice of the EPA announces the availability of draft Integrated Risk Information System (IRIS) assessment plans for nitrate/nitrite, chloroform, and ethylbenzene. The documents describe the plan for conducting the human health risk assessment for each chemical and summarize information on scoping and initial problem formation; objectives and specific aims for the assessment; and a Population, Exposure, Comparators, and Outcomes (PECO) framework for the systematic review. The plans will be discussed at the Science Advisory Board Chemical Assessment Advisory Committee peer consultation meeting scheduled for Sept. 27-28, 2017, in Arlington, Va. Comments are due Oct. 18, 2017. Contact: James Avery; EPA, National Center for Environmental Assessment; 703-347-8668; avery.james@epa.gov

82 FR 43539 (09/18/2017)

Regulatory Update

WATER

National Boating Safety Advisory Council Meetings

WATER

Notice of the U.S. Coast Guard announces meetings of the National Boating Safety Advisory Council and its subcommittees to discuss recreational boating safety. The agenda includes presentations and discussions concerning council resolutions and reports, alternatives to pyrotechnic visual distress signals, grant projects, updates to manufacturer requirements, and standards for boats and associated equipment. The agenda also includes presentations and discussions regarding state safety programs, licensing requirements for on-water boating safety instruction providers, regulatory review of the recreational boating safety requirements, strategic plans, and subcommittee reports. The meetings are scheduled for Oct. 10-12, 2017, in Arlington, Va. Comments are Oct. 2, 2017. Contact: Jeff Ludwig; USCG, National Boating Safety Advisory Council; 202-372-1061; jeffrey.a.ludwig@uscg.mil. Citations: 33 CFR 173 through 187 (Subchapter S)

82 FR 43552 (09/18/2017)

Regulatory Update

WATER

Steam Electric Power Generating Point Source Category/Compliance Dates Postponement

WATER

Final rule of the EPA postpones compliance dates for a Nov. 3, 2015, final rule (80 FR 67838) that revised effluent limitations guidelines and new source performance standards for wastewater discharges from the electric power generating point source category. The rule established effluent limitations and standards for wastewaters associated with specified processes or byproducts. The current rule postpones the compliance dates for flue gas desulfurization wastewater and bottom ash transport water for two years as the agency intends to conduct a rulemaking to potentially revise the effluent limitations and standards. The current rule is not postponing the compliance dates for fly ash transport water, fly gas mercury control wastewater, or gasification wastewater. The rule is effective Sept. 18, 2017. Contact: Ronald Jordan; EPA, Engineering and Analysis Division; 202-566-1003; jordan.ronald@epa.gov. Citations: 40 CFR 423.11, 423.13, 423.16

82 FR 43494 (09/18/2017)

Regulatory Update

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EHS Federal Regulatory Alert

To: Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
From: Bloomberg BNA
Sent: Mon 9/18/2017 12:01:47 PM
Subject: Sep. 18 -- EHS State Regulatory Alert

EHS State Regulatory Alert

September 18, 2017 - Number 179

You can create a report customized by topic, jurisdiction, and date range by using the Regulatory Summaries Report Tool. The report can be generated in Excel, Word, or PDF.

Indiana

WATER
Great Lakes Basin Water Management
Indiana WATER

Notice announces the intention of the Natural Resources Commission to amend regulations under 312 IAC 6.2-1-2, -2-3, and -2-7 regarding Great Lakes Basin water management. The rule allows facilities to sell or transfer all or a portion of its baseline volume and provides for the relinquishment of a facility's baseline volume. The rule also defines "baseline volume abandonment," "discontinued significant water withdrawal facility," and "inactive significant water withdrawal facility" and updates the definition of "salmonid stream." In addition, the rule clarifies basinwide conservation and efficiency objectives. Comments are requested, but a due date is not specified. Contact: Mark Basch; NRC; 317-232-0154; mbasch@dnr.in.gov

—Indiana Register (09/13/2017)

Regulatory Update

Kansas

HAZARDOUS WASTE CLEANUP
Voluntary Cleanup and Property Redevelopment Program
Kansas HAZARDOUS WASTE CLEANUP

Final rule of the Department of Health and Environment amends regulations under KAR 28-71-1 through -12 regarding the Voluntary Cleanup and Property Redevelopment Program. The rule clarifies eligibility criteria and the application process, specifies the information needed to justify contaminant class, and reduces the number of contamination classes to two. The rule also requires voluntary cleanup work and environmental site assessments to be performed in compliance with industry practices and revises the objectives for remediation proposals. In

addition, the rule clarifies the approaches to determine soil and groundwater cleanup levels based on actual and probable use of groundwater, revises oversight requirements and requirements for environmental site assessments, and removes duplicative provisions for public notification and participation. Finally, the rule increases the initial deposit amount for contaminant Class I to $2,000 and requires applicants to maintain a balance of $1,000 for Class I properties and $2,000 for Class II properties in the voluntary party's account until project completion. The rule is effective Sept. 29, 2017. Contact: Deanna Ross; DHE, Bureau of Environmental Remediation; 785-296-8064; deanna.ross@ks.gov

—Kansas Register (09/14/2017)

Regulatory Update

Nevada

AIR
Air Pollution Control Devices for Mobile Sources
Nevada AIR

Final rule of the State Environmental Commission amends regulations under NAC 445B.575 concerning air pollution control devices for mobile sources. The rule provides an exemption for motor vehicles subject to a settlement agreement entered into by the state from the requirement that vehicles equipped with devices to control pollution must have those devices correctly installed and in good operating condition. The rule is effective Sept. 21, 2017. Contact: Valerie King; SEC; 775-687-9374

—Nevada Register (09/14/2017)

Regulatory Update

AIR
Air Pollution, Hazardous Materials, Alternative and Clean-Burning Fuels
Nevada AIR

Final rule of the State Environmental Commission amends regulations under NAC 445B.3364 through 445B.3683 (nonconsecutive), 459.953465, and 486A.140 regarding air quality permit and alternative fuel designation public notice requirements. The rule removes the requirement to provide public notice of draft air permits and other program actions through publication in a newspaper and in a public library. The rule provides instead for electronic notice and requires draft permits to be posted on a website. The rule is effective Sept. 21, 2017. Contact: Valerie King; SEC; 775-687-9374

—Nevada Register (09/14/2017)

Regulatory Update

Oregon

OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH
Occupational Safety and Health/Telecommunications Activities
Oregon OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH

Final rule of the Department of Consumer and Business Services, Occupational Safety and Health Division, amends regulations under OAR 437-002-0300 regarding personal climbing equipment for telecommunication activities in general industry. The rule incorporates by reference federal standards under 29 CFR 1910.268 that were unintentionally omitted during the state's adoption of the federal requirements for walking-working surfaces and personal protective equipment. The rule is effective Nov. 1, 2017. Contact: Heather Case; DCBS, Occupational Safety and Health Division; 503-947-7449; heather.case@oregon.gov

—Oregon Bulletin (09/13/2017)

Regulatory Update

Virginia

OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH
Virginia Occupational Safety and Health Program
Virginia OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH

Notice of the Department of Labor and Industry, Safety and Health Codes Board, announces a hearing on a Sept. 4, 2017, proposed rule to amend regulations under 16 VAC 25-60-10, -20, -30, -260, -270, and -280 regarding administrative regulations for the Occupational Safety and Health Program. The rule establishes procedures for the application of penalties to state and local government employers for willful, repeat, and failure-to-abate violations as well as serious violations that cause a fatal accident or are classified as "high gravity." The hearing is scheduled for Oct. 26, 2017, in Richmond. A comment due date is not specified. Contact: Regina Cobb; DLI; 804-786-0610; regina.cobb@doli.virginia.gov

—Virginia Register (09/18/2017)

Regulatory Update

West Virginia

RADIATION
Technologically Enhanced Naturally Occurring Radioactive Material
West Virginia RADIATION

Notice of the Department of Health and Human Resources, Bureau for Public Health, announces the withdrawal of a June 27, 2017, proposed rule that would have adopted regulations under 64 WVCSR 23.A regarding technologically enhanced naturally occurring radioactive material

(TENORM). The rule would have established radiation protection standards and registration requirements for entities that receive, possess, use, process, transfer, distribute, or dispose of TENORM. The rule also would have addressed exemptions, financial assurance arrangements, recordkeeping requirements for site reclamation, radiation protection program requirements, and qualifications of radiation safety officers. Contact: Brian Skinner; DHHR, Bureau for Public Health; 304-356-4122

—West Virginia Register (09/14/2017)

Regulatory Update

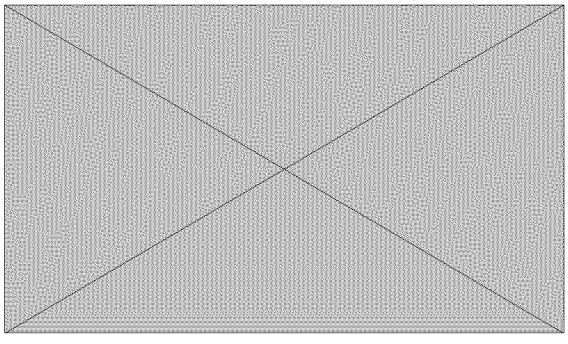
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EHS State Regulatory Alert

To: Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
From: American Enterprise Institute
Sent: Mon 9/18/2017 10:02:45 AM
Subject: AEI Today: Tax reform needs solutions from 2017, not 1981

It's not 1981 anymore.

AEI's daily publication of independent research, insightful analysis, and scholarly debate

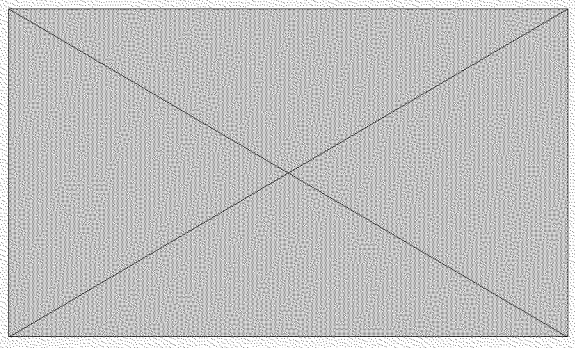


Wikipedia

Tax reform needs solutions from 2017, not 1981

Ramesh Ponnuru | Bloomberg View

It's not 1981 anymore. That's the message of an editorial in the conservative Weekly Standard, which warns Republicans not to design a tax reform patterned on the one Ronald Reagan signed in his first year as president. That doesn't mean Reagan's basic disposition toward lower and less onerous taxes needs to be junked. It means that today's politicians need to grapple with four differences between our time and his.

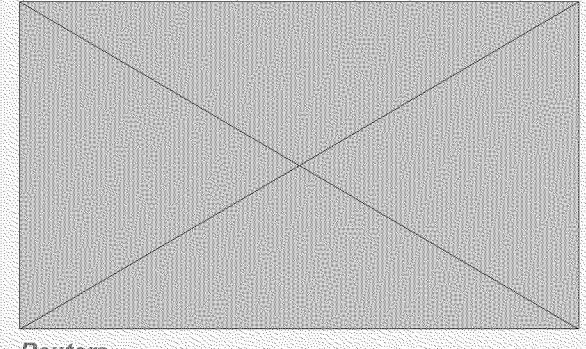


Twenty20

The importance of having conservative professors

Arthur C. Brooks | The New York Times

These days, the news is full of sensational stories of violent campus mobs shutting down conservative speakers and freaked-out college administrators treating rioters with kid gloves. Such stories offer excellent fodder for critics who are eager to condemn university culture. But Arthur Brooks believes they distract from a deeper, subtler intellectual problem on the modern campus: the homogenization of political viewpoints.



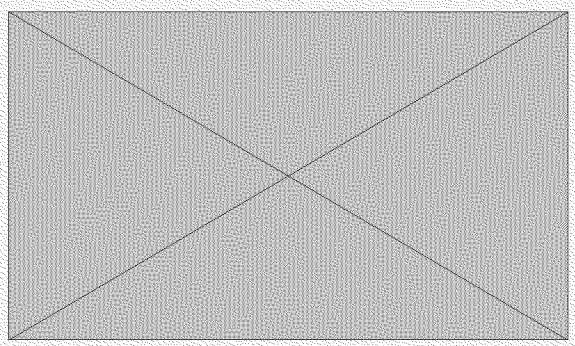
Reuters

North Korea is the

greatest threat to US security

John Yoo | Fox News

North Korea represents the most imminent threat to US national security. Pyongyang's test this month of a fusion bomb and its launch last month of an ICBM have demonstrated its ability to launch nuclear attacks on US soil. Kim Jong Un's regime may not be fully deterred by a retaliatory strike — it already enslaves most of its population. Nevertheless, we will likely witness yet another cycle of fruitless diplomacy.



Reuters

AEI's annual Constitution Day celebration

Various Scholars | AEI

Americans celebrate the Declaration of Independence with July 4th — a national holiday full of festivities. As the country's "birthday," that's appropriate. It's especially appropriate given the revolutionary nature of the Declaration, which grounds a nation on principles of nature and not on religion, blood, or soil. Constitution Day is one of those observances that slides by on the calendar, hardly noticed by many Americans. But not at AEI.

MORE FROM AEI

Using demographics to explain inequality
Mark J. Perry | AEIdeas

Making emerging markets great again
Desmond Lachman | The Hill

Crying wolf on Trump's education budget
Frederick M. Hess | Education Next

Middle-class tax cuts need to be paid for
James Pethokoukis | AEIdeas

Looking at the life and career of James Madison
"Lynne V. Cheney | AEI video

Does California's fake privacy proposal violate the Constitution?
Roslyn Layton | AEIdeas

The frustrations of House Republicans
Michael Barone | Washington Examiner

An interview with economic historian Joel Mokyr
James Pethokoukis | AEIdeas

Watch live: A conversation with EU Commissioner for Competition Margrethe Vestager
Jeffrey Eisenach | AEI event today at 1:30 PM ET

Tune in: The 2017 Walter Berns Constitution Day Lecture
Ryan Streeter and Gary J. Schmitt | AEI event today at 5:00 PM ET

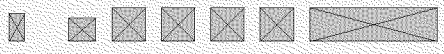
Around the web: Gregory Mankiw's reading list

Matt Winesett | AEIdeas

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To: Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
From: POLITICO Pro Energy
Sent: Mon 9/18/2017 9:45:44 AM
Subject: Morning Energy, presented by the Nuclear Energy Institute: Decoding Team Trump's murky signals on Paris deal — Climate VIPs gather on side of U.N. General Assembly — Seven monuments targeted in Zinke's review

By Anthony Adragna | 09/18/2017 05:43 AM EDT

With help from Eric Wolff and Emily Holden

PARIS POSITION AS CLEAR AS MUD: A weekend full of conflicting signals and mixed messages culminated with President Donald Trump's administration reiterating its intention to withdraw from the Paris climate agreement "unless we can re-enter on terms that are more favorable to our country." Confusion first emerged Saturday when Everett Eissenstat, the No. 2 official on the National Economic Council, made comments at a Montreal meeting that some diplomats interpreted as signaling the U.S. might remain in the international deal while revising Obama's climate pledge. But White House and international officials told POLITICO's Nancy Cook, Andrew Restuccia and Kalina Oroschakoff those comments were misconstrued. "This is being misreported. Unhelpfully so I think," a non-U.S. attendee of the meeting said of the comments.

Administration officials stressed that view Sunday. National Security Adviser H.R. McMaster called The Wall Street Journal's original report on Saturday that the U.S. was considering remaining in the Paris agreement a "false report" on "Fox News Sunday," POLITICO's Theodoric Meyer reports. But Secretary of State Rex Tillerson was less adamant on CBS' "Face the Nation," saying there was a possibility the Trump administration could stick with it if they can negotiate what they deem a better deal: "The president said he is open to finding those conditions where we can remain engaged with others on what we all agree is still a challenging issue," he said. "The plan is for [National Economic Council] Director [Gary] Cohn to consider other ways in which we can work with partners in the Paris climate accord. We want to be productive, we want to be helpful."

It's worth noting: Italy, France and Germany have said the underlying framework of the Paris agreement won't be renegotiated, but multiple experts have said the U.S. could weaken its voluntary emissions reduction pledge — nationally determined contribution in diplomatic parlance — whenever it wants. Or in the words of Democratic Connecticut Sen. Chris Murphy: "Dear White House, READ THE AGREEMENT. It already allows each country to set their own terms of compliance. So we good? Back in?"

Reminder: The U.S. cannot fully withdraw from the Paris agreement until Nov. 4, 2020, though the State Department announced last month it would continue participating in international climate change negotiations.

COHN TALKS CLIMATE TODAY: As world leaders and diplomats descend on New York this week for the United Nations General Assembly, Cohn meets today with international officials on a host of issues, including U.S. engagement on climate change. A readout from the

ministerial meeting on climate action held over the weekend in Montreal is available here.

Environmental delegation cut: Tillerson won't send the State Department's bureau on oceans and the environment to participate in traditional meetings during the United Nations General Assembly, the New York Times reports. That comes as he's reduced the overall number of officials participating in the sessions by about half from last year.

CLIMATE BIG SHOTS MEET ON THE SIDELINES: Former Secretary of State John Kerry convenes a two-day climate change summit at Yale beginning today with a host of VIPs. A session at 11 a.m. features former Energy Secretary Ernest Moniz, Obama climate czar Heather Zichal and chief climate negotiator Jonathan Pershing discussing the future of energy. Then, former George W. Bush Treasury Secretary Hank Paulson and GE's Jeff Immelt are among the panelists discussing the role of the private sector in addressing the problem at 2:30 p.m.

California Gov. Jerry Brown plans to spend the week highlighting opportunities for cities and states to curb emissions, regardless of the administration's stance. Today he'll speak alongside Tom Steyer and then with France's Minister of Ecology Nicholas Hulot and World Economic Forum head of industries Cheryl Martin. The 15 states that comprise the Climate Alliance, which was formed after Trump's decision to withdraw from the Paris deal, are expected announce the greenhouse gas levels they hope to achieve by 2025.

Brown also launched the America's Pledge initiative along with former New York mayor Michael Bloomberg. "We're not where we need to be, we're not moving as fast as we need to move, not changing as fast as we need to change," Bloomberg senior adviser Carl Pope said of overall U.S. action. "But we think we are accelerating at a rate that we can get there." He added America's Pledge has seen a doubling of participants in the past three months.

WELCOME TO MONDAY! I'm your host Anthony Adragna, and the Citizens' Climate Lobby's Brett Cease identified Oklahoma as the state with two senators with the same first name (James Inhofe and James Lankford). For today: What former EPA administrator ran for U.S. Senate back in 1994 but lost in a Democratic primary (and which state)? Send your tips, energy gossip and comments to aadragna@politico.com, or follow us on Twitter @AnthonyAdragna, @Morning_Energy, and @POLITICOPro.

#CONCORDIA17: POLITICO is the official media partner of the 2017 Concordia Annual Summit taking place in conjunction with the UN General Assembly in NYC on Sept 18 and 19. Join us in the Big Apple as we host conversations with world leaders, industry experts, current and former heads of states, C-suite executives, and senior Congressional and Administration officials. Don't miss POLITICO reporters: **Bryan Bender**, Defense Editor, **Jack Blanchard**, Editor, Playbook London, **Helena Bottemiller Evich**, Senior Food and Agriculture Reporter, **Michael Crowley**, National Security Editor, **Susan Glasser** , Chief Foreign Affairs Correspondent & Global POLITICO Host, **Nick Juliano**, Deputy Energy Editor, **Matt Kaminski**, Executive Editor, POLITICO Europe, **Anna Palmer**, Senior Washington Correspondent and co-author of Playbook and **Ben White**, Chief Economic Correspondent. Register here.

REPORT: SEVEN MONUMENTS IN CROSSHAIRS: Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke's unreleased report to Trump on national monuments recommends shrinking or changing the boundaries of seven national monuments, The Wall Street Journal reports . Among the national monuments targeted are the Utah's Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante; Oregon's Cascade-Siskiyou; Nevada's Gold Butte; Maine's Katahdin; and New Mexico's Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks and Rio Grande Del Norte. Zinke's recommendations would also reopen Northeast Canyons and Seamounts off the Massachusetts coast and both Rose Atoll and the Pacific Remote Islands to commercial fishing.

Utah pushed drastic Bears Ears rollback: Utah Gov. Gary Herbert's office suggested to Zinke shrinking Bears Ears National Monument to one-tenth of its current 1.35 million acres, down to about 120,000 acres, The Salt Lake Tribune reports, citing an open records request. Native American leaders bashed the state's proposal and said it disregards the wishes of the tribes who pushed for the monument designation in the first place.

REPORT: ADMINISTRATION INCHING TOWARD ANWR DRILLING: Interior has proposed in an internal memo to lift a ban on exploratory seismic studies in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, taking a first step toward opening up the wilderness to drilling, the Washington Post reports . It's unclear how much interest energy companies would have in pouring significant investments into the region with oil prices remaining low, and Congress would ultimately have to authorize oil and gas drilling in the area. But U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Acting Director James W. Kurth requested in a memo that the agency update a 1980s regulation that allowed exploratory drilling as the agency pushes to remove legal obstacles to energy exploration in ANWR.

TRUMP MOCKS LONG GAS LINES IN NORTH KOREA: Trump tweeted Sunday (in addition to calling its leader Kim Jong Un "Rocket Man") that "Long gas lines forming in North Korea. Too bad!" It's unclear where Trump got his reports of long lines, but he appeared to be touting the effectiveness of new sanctions cleared by the U.N. Security Council last week. Though not as strong as the administration hoped, the sanctions capped North Korea's crude oil imports and barred the secluded nation from importing all natural gas liquids and condensates.

** **A message from the Nuclear Energy Institute**: Nuclear is doing more than ever before. It's powering the grid, boosting the economy by billions, creating jobs, propelling space travel and even helping doctors. It's moving us forward in ways we never thought possible. Explore all nuclear energy is doing at discovernuclear.com. **

PRUITT VISITS TEXAS SUPERFUND SITES: EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt on Friday visited the San Jacinto River waste pits, a Superfund site encompassing a group of impoundments holding 1960s-era paper mill waste that were affected by Hurricane Harvey. Following his visit, Pruitt promised the agency would make a final call on how to remediate the site before Oct. 14, The Baytown Sun reports . "So as we look to answers here, they need to be permanent, they need to provide confidence with the people of this area that it's going to be for the long haul and we fix this situation, so that anxiety goes away," the administrator said in a local TV interview.

EPA said Pruitt also received an aerial tour of other Superfund sites caught up in the storm, including Patrick Bayou, U.S. Oil Recovery, Highlands Acid Pits, French Unlimited, Brio Refining and Dixie Oil Processors.

More waivers granted: EPA announced it would extend waivers from certain Clean Air Act requirements through Sept. 22 for petroleum distribution facilities, gasoline storage facilities and bulk fuel terminals in Texas affected by Hurricane Harvey.

LET ME BE NU-CLEAR! Energy Secretary Rick Perry is in Vienna, Austria for the International Atomic Energy Agency's general conference. He posted pictures from a "wonderful dinner" with the group's Director General Yukiya Amano, a meeting with Chinese officials, discussions with Japanese representatives and a chance encounter with Austrian President Alexander Van der Bellen.

BIG WEEK FOR TRUMP NOMINEES! The House is out this week, so all eyes from congressional watchers will be on the Senate and the fate of ten energy and environmental nominees in committees. After a couple of false starts, the Energy and Natural Resources Committee is expected to clear five DOE, Interior and FERC nominees during a Tuesday business meeting at 9:30 a.m. without much drama.

It'll be a much different story the next day when the Environment and Public Works Committee holds a confirmation hearing for four EPA nominees. Expect vehement opposition from panel Democrats to the nominations of Michael Dourson to be the agency's chemical chief and William Wehrum to be the top air official. More on both sessions as we get closer.

MAIL CALL! ACTION SOUGHT ON BRAZILIAN TARIFF: A bipartisan group of 10 senators want U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer to talk Brazil out of its ethanol tariffs. "We are writing to ask that you directly engage the Brazilian government and quickly work to resolve this issue," the letter says. It doesn't call for any specific remedies other than asking Lighthizer to get Brazil to back down from its 20 percent tariff on ethanol imports above 600 million liters (158 million gallons). "We are writing to ask that you directly engage the Brazilian government and quickly work to resolve this issue," the senators say. The letter is signed by six Democrats and four Republicans, and includes Sens. Chuck Grassley and Debbie Stabenow, both of whom are on the Finance committee, which has oversight of the Trade Representative.

TAKE A GLANCE! WHAT WORKS IN OFFSHORE WIND: The Center for American Progress is out with a report today examining state policies that helped offshore wind projects in Rhode Island, Massachusetts and New York get off the around. Among the items they recommend states consider for the policy toolkits: Strong renewable energy requirements, legislation guaranteeing demand for offshore wind power, comprehensive ocean planning, competitive and reasonable long-term power purchase agreements and infrastructure investments in areas like ports. CAP argues the lessons could be applied to states like New Jersey, North and South Carolina, Ohio, Maryland, Virginia and California.

THIS SEEMS LIKE A BIG DEAL: The House on Friday argued in legal filings federal

agencies should not release congressional records through Freedom of Information Act requests, POLITICO's Josh Gerstein reports. In a federal district court filing, House General Counsel Thomas Hungar said a House body known as the Bipartisan Legal Advisory Group voted unanimously in favor of the intervention to "protect the institutional interests of the House."

ME FIRST — CLEAN ENERGY WEEK KICKOFF IN STYLE: Perry and Zinke are teaming up to kick off National Clean Energy Week on Sept. 26 at the Reserve Officers Association on Capitol Hill in a discussion moderated by former New Hampshire Sen. Kelly Ayotte. Also expected to speak throughout the day are Rep. Cathy McMorris Rodgers and Sen. Lindsey Graham.

WEEKEND PAPAL THOUGHT: "Global action is needed in order to reduce pollution and at the same time promote development in poorer countries," Pope Francis tweeted Saturday.

QUICK HITS

— Capitol Insider: Ohio coal officials join Trump administration. Columbus Dispatch.

— British Press Watchdog Says Climate Change Article Was Faulty. New York Times.

— $10M coming to Colstrip in coal plant settlement, but future of facility darkens. KPAX.

— IEA Sees Risk of Volatile Oil Prices on Weak Upstream Investment. Bloomberg.

— Protesters set to rally against Australia's biggest coal project. Reuters.

— Refinery, jobs threatened by EPA regulation. Toledo Blade.

HAPPENING THIS WEEK

MONDAY

9:00 a.m. — Concordia Annual Summit at Grand Hyatt New York ft. energy panel with Nick Juliano, 109 E 42nd St

TUESDAY

9:30 a.m. — Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee markup on various nominations, 366 Dirksen

10:00 a.m. — "Full Committee hearing to examine the vegetation management requirements for electricity assets located on federal lands," Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, 366 Dirksen

10:00 a.m. — "IEA's World Energy Investment 2017," Center for Strategic and International Studies, 1616 Rhode Island Avenue, NW

WEDNESDAY

10:00 a.m. — Senate Environment and Public Works Committee holds hearing on various nominations, 406 Dirksen

4:00 p.m. — "Energy Security: New Market Realities," The Institute of World Politics, 1521 16th Street NW

FRIDAY

10:00 a.m. — "Statoil's Climate Roadmap," Center for Strategic and International Studies, 1616 Rhode Island Avenue, NW

11:00 a.m. — International Trade Commission holds vote on solar trade petition seeking to impose steep tariffs, Main Hearing Room, 500 E Street SW

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To view online:
https://www.politicopro.com/tipsheets/morning-energy/2017/09/decoding-team-trumps-murky-signals-on-paris-deal-024631

Stories from POLITICO Pro

White House denies backtracking on Paris pact withdrawal Back

By Nancy Cook, Andrew Restuccia and Kalina Oroschakoff | 09/16/2017 06:09 PM EDT

The White House denied Saturday that the administration was backtracking on its long-held plans to withdraw from the Paris climate deal.

"There has been no change in the United States' position on the Paris agreement. As the President has made abundantly clear, the United States is withdrawing unless we can re-enter on terms that are more favorable to our country," said White House Press Secretary Sarah Sanders, in a statement.

The denial came after the Wall Street Journal reported that a White House senior official, Everett

Eissenstat, had told people at a meeting of energy ministers in Montreal that the administration may revise or craft a new climate deal and emissions standards rather than pull out altogether, according to a top European energy official cited by the Journal.

As recently as early August, the White House signaled its intent to continue the process of withdrawal by delivering an official notice to the United Nations vis-à-vis the State Department.

President Donald Trump announced his intentions to withdraw the U.S. from the agreement in June during a speech in the Rose Garden — though under the terms of the original deal, the U.S. cannot fully withdraw until Nov. 4, 2020.

The president also indicated at that time that he would be open to re-entering the climate pact if he believed the United States could get out of it what Trump deemed a better deal.

The State Department announced last month that the U.S. would continue participating in international climate change negotiations, including talks aimed at implementing the Paris pact, "to protect U.S. interests and ensure all future policy options remain open to the administration."

Since then, the international community has largely been left in the dark about the United States' plans. Foreign diplomats have long suspected that the U.S. will ultimately remain in the agreement, while weakening former President Barack Obama's pledge to cut domestic emissions 26 percent to 28 percent below 2005 levels by 2025.

Diplomats have been buzzing about this weekend's climate meeting in Montreal, where energy ministers were set to discuss the climate deal.

An international official familiar with the meeting told POLITICO earlier Saturday that Eissenstat, the No. 2 official on the National Economic Council, told diplomats during a closed-door meeting that the U.S. was mulling plans to remain in the Paris deal and to rethink Obama's climate pledge.

But White House officials strongly denied that.

Another White House official said Saturday diplomats were mischaracterizing Eissenstat's comments.

A second, non-U.S. attendee at this weekend's meeting also said Eissenstat's comments were being misconstrued. The attendee, who witnessed his comments in person, said Eissenstat simply reiterated the administration's existing position, which is that the U.S. will continue to engage in climate talks with an eye toward reaching a better deal.

"He basically repeated exactly the State Department press release from August," the person said, referring to a recent statement from the department outlining its intention to eventually withdraw, but continue participating in Paris discussions. "This is being misreported. Unhelpfully so I think."

The news comes as National Economic Council Director Gary Cohn is set to meet with foreign officials in New York City on Monday to discuss climate and energy issues ahead of the United Nations General Assembly.

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McMaster rejects report U.S. will remain in Paris deal as 'false' Back

By Theodoric Meyer | 09/17/2017 12:19 PM EDT

National security adviser H.R. McMaster on Sunday shot down a Wall Street Journal story reporting that the U.S. would remain in the Paris climate accord despite President Donald Trump's announcement in June that he would pull the country out.

"That's a false report," McMaster told Chris Wallace on "Fox News Sunday." "The president decided to pull out of the Paris accord because it was a bad deal for the American people and a bad deal for the environment."

The Journal reported Saturday that Trump administration officials at a climate summit in Montreal had said the U.S. wouldn't leave the accord after all, citing multiple officials there. "U.S. officials in Montreal, led by White House senior adviser Everett Eissenstat, broached revising U.S. climate-change goals, two participants said, signaling a compromise that would keep the U.S. at the table even if it meant weakening the international effort," The Journal's Emre Peker reported.

But McMaster bashed the Paris deal after denying The Journal's story.

"It gave the worst polluters the ability to continue polluting and emitting carbon without significantly reducing those levels," McMaster said on "Fox News Sunday." "The president is committed to the cleanest water on Earth, the cleanest air on Earth, to an energy policy that reduces carbon emissions but then also provides clean fossil fuels to generate growth in this country and globally."

McMaster was more equivocal in an interview with George Stephanopoulos on ABC's "This Week." Asked whether the U.S. would remain in the accord if the administration can negotiate better terms before 2020 — the earliest the U.S. can quit the accord under the terms of the deal — McMaster said it was a possibility.

"If there's an agreement that benefits the American people, certainly," he said.

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Cohn to participate in energy, climate discussion at United Nations Back

By Andrew Restuccia | 09/12/2017 03:37 PM EDT

National Economic Council director Gary Cohn will host an energy and climate change discussion with international officials in New York next week, an administration official confirmed.

The Monday meeting comes the day before the opening of the United Nations General Assembly, where President Donald Trump and dozens of other world leaders will speak.

Cohn invited officials from more than a dozen countries to the breakfast meeting to discuss "international energy and climate issues," according to a copy of the invitation obtained by POLITICO.

The invitation, which Cohn sent on Sept. 7, says the huddle is an "opportunity for key ministers with responsibility for these issues to engage in an informal exchange of views and discuss how we can move forward most productively."

The administration official stressed that the meeting, first reported by the New York Times, will not focus solely on climate change.

Trump infuriated foreign diplomats when he announced in June that he would withdraw from the Paris climate change agreement, which has won the support of nearly 200 nations. Cohn was among White House officials pushing Trump not to exit the Paris agreement at the time.

But so far, the United States has not formally withdrawn, and Trump administration officials have sent mixed signals about whether it is willing to reach a deal to remain in the pact.

The State Department announced last month that the U.S. would continue participating in international climate change negotiations, including talks aimed at implementing the Paris pact, "to protect U.S. interests and ensure all future policy options remain open to the administration."

Trump, who has called climate change a "hoax" perpetrated by the Chinese, has said the United States is getting an unfair deal in the Paris agreement.

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U.N. Security Council approves new North Korea sanctions Back

By Associated Press | 09/11/2017 06:36 PM EDT

UNITED NATIONS — The U.N. Security Council on Monday unanimously approved new sanctions on North Korea but not the toughest-ever measures sought by the Trump administration to ban all oil imports and freeze international assets of the government and its leader, Kim Jong Un.

The resolution, responding to Pyongyang's sixth and strongest nuclear test explosion on Sept. 3, does ban North Korea from importing all natural gas liquids and condensates. It also bans all textile exports and prohibits any country from authorizing new work permits for North Korean workers - two key sources of hard currency for the northeast Asian nation.

As for energy, it caps Pyongyang's imports of crude oil at the level of the last 12 months, and it limits the import of refined petroleum products to 2 million barrels a year.

The watered-down resolution does not include sanctions that the U.S. wanted on North Korea's national airline and the army.

Nonetheless, U.S. Ambassador Nikki Haley told the council after the vote that "these are by far the strongest measures ever imposed on North Korea." But she stressed that "these steps only work if all nations implement them completely and aggressively."

Haley noted that the council was meeting on the 16th anniversary of the 9/11 terrorist attack. In a clear message to North Korean threats to attack the U.S., she said: "We will never forget the lesson that those who have evil intentions must be confronted."

"Today we are saying the world will never accept a nuclear armed North Korea," she said. "We are done trying to prod the regime to do the right thing" and instead are taking steps to prevent it "from doing the wrong thing."

Haley said the U.S. doesn't take pleasure in strengthening sanctions and reiterated that the U.S. does not want war.

"The North Korean regime has not yet passed the point of no return," she said. "If it agrees to stop its nuclear program it can reclaim its future. If it proves it can live in peace, the world will live in peace with it. ... If North Korea continues its dangerous path, we will continue with further pressure."

The final agreement was reached after negotiations between the U.S. and China, the North's ally and major trading partner. Haley said the resolution never would have happened without the "strong relationship" between President Donald Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping.

But its provisions are a significant climb-down from the very tough sanctions the Trump administration proposed last Tuesday, especially on oil, where a complete ban could have crippled North Korea's economy.

The cap on the import of petroleum products could have an impact, but North Korea will still be

able to import the same amount of crude oil that is has this year.

According to the U.S. Energy Information Administration, China supplies most of North Korea's crude oil imports, which a U.S. official put at 4 million barrels a year. The agency cited U.N. customs data showing that China reported sending 6,000 barrels a day of oil products to North Korea, which it said is mostly gasoline and diesel fuel vital to the country's agriculture, transportation and military sectors.

That would mean North Korea imports nearly 2.2 million barrels a year in petroleum products, so the 2 million barrel cap in the resolution would represent a 10 percent cut. But the U.S. official, who was not authorized to speak publicly, said North Korea now receives about 4.5 million barrels of refined petroleum products, which would mean a more than 50 percent cut.

The textile ban is significant. Textiles are North Korea's main source of export revenue after coal, iron, seafood and other minerals that have already been severely restricted by previous U.N. resolutions. North Korean textile exports in 2016 totaled $752.5 million, accounting for about one-fourth of its total $3 billion in merchandise exports, according to South Korean government figures.

Haley said the Trump administration believes the new sanctions combined with previous measures would ban over 90 percent of North Korea's exports reported in 2016.

As for North Koreans working overseas, the U.S. Mission said a cutoff on new work permits will eventually cost North Korea about $500 million a year once current work permits expire. The U.S. estimates about 93,000 North Koreans are currently working abroad, the U.S. official said.

The original U.S. draft would have ordered all countries to impose an asset freeze and travel ban on Kim Jong Un and four other top party and government officials. The resolution adopted Monday adds only one person to the sanctions list - Pak Yong Sik, a member of the Workers' Party of Korea Central Military Commission, which controls the country's military and helps direct its military industries.

The original U.S. draft would also have frozen the assets of North Korea's state-owned airline Air Koryo, the Korean People's Army and five other powerful military and party entities. The resolution adds only the Central Military Commission of the Workers' Party of Korea and the party's powerful Organization and Guidance Department and its Propaganda and Agitation Department to the sanctions blacklist.

North Korea's Foreign Ministry issued a statement early Monday saying it was watching the United States' moves closely and warned that it was "ready and willing" to respond with measures of its own. It said the U.S. would pay a heavy price if the sanctions proposed by Washington are adopted.

Britain's U.N. ambassador, Matthew Rycroft, told reporters who questioned the watering down of the initial U.S. text that "there is a significant prize in keeping the whole of the Security Council united."

Rycroft called the resolution "a very significant set of additional sanctions," declaring that "we are tightening the screw, and we stand prepared to tighten it further."

French Ambassador Francois Delattre said, "We are facing not a regional but a global threat, not a virtual but an immediate threat, not a serious but an existential threat."

"Make no mistake about it," he said, "our firmness today is our best antidote to the risk of war, to the risk of confrontation, and our firmness today is our best tool for a political solution tomorrow."

China and Russia had called for a resolution focused on a political solution to the escalating crisis over North Koreas nuclear program. They have proposed a freeze-for-freeze that would halt North Korean nuclear and missile tests in exchange for the U.S. and South Korea stopping their joint military exercises - but the Trump administration has rejected that.

China's U.N. ambassador, Liu Jieyi, said Beijing has been making "unremitting efforts" to denuclearize and maintain peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula.

Liu again urged the council to adopt the freeze-for-freeze proposal and said talks with North Korea are needed "sooner rather than later." He expressed hope that the United States will pledge not to seek regime change or North Korea's collapse.

Russian Ambassador Vassily Nebenzia went further, making clear that while Russia supported the resolution, it wasn't entirely satisfied with the council's approach.

He said the "unwillingness" of the U.S. to reaffirm pledges not to seek regime change or war in North Korea or to include the idea of having U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres use his good offices to try to resolve the dispute "gives rise to very serious questions in our minds."

"We're convinced that diverting the gathering menace from the Korean Peninsula could be done not through further and further sanctions, but by political means," he said.

The resolution does add new language urging "further work to reduce tensions so as to advance the prospects for a comprehensive settlement." It retains language reaffirming support for long-stalled six-party talks with that goal involving North Korea, the U.S., Russia, China, Japan and South Korea.

To view online click here.

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House goes to court to protect secrecy of records Back

By Josh Gerstein | 09/15/2017 08:21 PM EDT

The House of Representatives is taking legal action to make sure that federal agencies don't release congressional records to the public through the Freedom of Information Act.

The move, which came Friday evening in a lawsuit demanding access to discussions about health care reform between the Trump administration and Congress, threatens to cut off a mechanism liberal watchdog groups were using to gain insight into closed-door negotiations on a variety of policy issues.

In legal papers filed in U.S. District Court in Washington, House General Counsel Thomas Hungar said the move to protect congressional correspondence was authorized by a House body known as the Bipartisan Legal Advisory Group. While the panel of top House leaders has divided in the past on sensitive issues, Hungar wrote that they "voted unanimously to authorize this intervention ... to protect the institutional interests of the House."

Hungar complained that last week the Department of Health and Human Services and the Office of Management and Budget gave the liberal group American Oversight four documents that originated with the House Ways and Means Committee. He argued that legal precedents established that congressional documents were exempt from disclosures pursuant to FOIA.

The House's legal filing also complains that the Trump administration is failing to respect Congress's prerogatives.

"Defendants have already demonstrated their unwillingness to defend that interest by failing to treat those documents as congressional records not subject to disclosure under FOIA and instead producing portions of those documents to plaintiff," Hungar wrote. "The Committee 'should not need to rely on a doubtful friend, when it can represent itself,'" he added, quoting a prior case.

The move comes after the chairman of the House Financial Services Committee, Rep. Jeb Hensarling (R-Texas), drew attention and a backlash from pro-transparency groups after he sent letters in April to about a dozen federal agencies warning them not to release congressional correspondence or submissions. He called the materials "sensitive and confidential."

Some Democrats questioned Hensarling's move.

"It is the height of hypocrisy for him to take such extraordinary measures to shield himself from the oversight of the American public," said Rep. Maxine Waters of California, the financial panel's ranking Democrat.

A spokeswoman for House Speaker Paul Ryan referred questions about the court action to the Ways and Means Committee.

"Unfortunately, OMB and HHS decided to release Congressional records over which our Committee had expressed a clear intent to retain control," said a panel spokeswoman, who asked not to be named. "By releasing these congressional documents that were clearly not subject to FOIA, these agencies went against decades of case law. With the strong support of all members

of the Bipartisan Legal Advisory Group, the Chairman decided it is in the best interest of the Ways and Means Committee and the House of Representatives to seek to intervene in this lawsuit and protect our Congressional prerogatives."
A Democratic leadership aide said the decision to step into the case was consistent with past practice.

"Congressional records are not subject to this statute," said the aide, who spoke on the condition of anonymity. "It has long been the position of the bipartisan leadership of the House of Representatives that congressional requests to agencies are also not subject to FOIA."

The executive director of the group that sued for the records said he was troubled by the House's actions.

"In a rare moment of bipartisanship, House leaders came together late on a Friday night to try to block the American people from learning the truth about the Obamacare repeal effort," said Austin Evers of American Oversight. "From the very beginning, health care negotiations between the Trump administration and Congress have taken place in secret, and with talks reportedly starting again, it speaks volumes that Congress's first priority is to keep the public in the dark."

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From: Morning Media
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Subject: Morning Media: The very political Emmys -- Trump Trusts TV more than the polls? -- 'Rolling Stone' is for sale

By Alex Weprin | 09/18/2017 05:39 AM EDT

THE VERY POLITICAL EMMY AWARDS: Popular culture often reflects the national mood, and that could not have been clearer during last night's broadcast of the 69th Primetime Emmy Awards. CBS "Late show" host Stephen Colbert hosted--fitting for a year dominated by news filled with politics and absurdity--and the show immediately struck a political tone.

-The opening song was all about how "everything is better on TV," as opposed to the real world, with climate change and the specter of nuclear war with North Korea. At one point, Colbert hopped into a car with Keri Russell and Matthew Rhys from the Cold War spy drama "The Americans," as a clip of President Trump shaking hands with Vladimir Putin played on screen "even treason is better on TV!" Colbert sang.

-The opening monologue, which included an extended bit about Trump's obsession with the Emmy Awards and his fruitless desire to win one (The New York Times has video and a transcript). Seth Meyers played along, filling his mouth with marbles in a reference to an old Trump tweet, while former White House press secretary Sean Spicer made a surprise appearance , coming out on a rolling podium and mocking his first White House press briefing, declaring "this will be the largest audience to witness an Emmys, period. Both in person and around the world." As Spicer rolled offstage, Colbert said: "Melissa McCarthy everyone!"

-It is not unusual for the winner's speeches to get political, but this year felt different, with almost every winner making light of the political climate. From the first winner, John Lithgow (who won for his portrayal of Winston Churchill), saying that Churchill showed what leadership really looked like, to Alec Baldwin (accepting an Emmy for his portrayal of Trump on "Saturday Night Live"): "At long last, Mr. President, here is your Emmy!." From Kate McKinnon, who played Hillary Clinton on the late night program, saying of her win, "Being part of this season of SNL was the most meaningful thing I'll ever do," to "Veep"'s Julia Louis-Dreyfus, who quipped, "We did have a storyline about an impeachment, but we abandoned it because we were worried someone else might get to it first."

-Speaking of "Saturday Night Live," the 41-year-old late night comedy show had a renaissance, taking home nine Emmys (the most of any one show), including wins for outstanding sketch series, McKinnon and for Alec Baldwin's portrayal of Trump, among others. Other winners shared that political undertone, from "The Handmaid's Tale" to "Last Week Tonight" to "Veep." Politics was all over last night's awards, from the first frame to the last.

Good morning and welcome to Morning Media. I always want to improve Morning Media and make it more useful to you, so please send me tips, ideas and feedback! I'm on Twitter **@alexweprin** and on email at **alexweprin@gmail.com**. Morning Media is produced with help from **Cristiano Lima (clima@politico.com / @ludacristiano)**. **Archives**. Subscribe.

'ROLLING STONE' IS FOR SALE: The magazine world continues to be rocked by major news. The latest? Counterculture icon Rolling Stone will be put up for sale by owner Jann Wenner. From The New York Times : "Both Jann and Gus Wenner, the president and chief operating officer of Wenner Media, said they intended to stay on at Rolling Stone. But they said they also recognized that the decision could ultimately be up to the new owner... "There's a level of ambition that we can't achieve alone," Gus Wenner said last week in an interview at the magazine's headquarters in Midtown Manhattan. "So we are being proactive and want to get ahead of the curve."

TRUMP TRUSTS TV MORE THAN THE POLLS? Fox News host Tucker Carlson gave an interview to "The Jamie Weinstein Show," and there was quite a bit of newsworthy material covered. For starters, Carlson said President Trump believes that TV is a more accurate reflection of public opinion than polling.

-"I know that he watches a lot of television. I know because I've talked to him about it at length, that he's really interested in television, both the mechanics of it - he knows a lot about ratings and lighting, and producing and guest booking... He believes that television producers, especially of highly rated shows, understand what the public is interested in - what it fears, what it wants, what it loves. And so TV programming in some ways is a more accurate reflection of the public mood than polling... That's his view, he said it to me. And that's one of the reasons he watches a lot of television. Whether that's true or not is an entirely debatable point, but he believes if you want to know where the country is, watch TV."

-While just about every pollster will disagree with that statement, I think it's fair to say that TV can reflect the national mood (See: The Emmys), and looking at what viewers tune in to can probably give you some clues into how many people are thinking. It is an interesting insight from Carlson, and one I haven't heard before about Trump. One quick question I have: Trump quite famously had Nielsen TV ratings delivered to his office before he ran for president. Does he still get the TV ratings?

-Carlson said he turned down two of the most-sought-after interviews in TV, in Syrian strongman Bashar Al-Assad and Russian president Vladimir Putin. Why? "It just wasn't worth the criticism." Carlson might be the only TV news host actively turning down huge gets others would knife each other to get.

UNTOLD TALES OF ROGER AILES: This story from Eliana Johnson is a must-read. It profiles Joe Lindsley, a man who Fox News founder Roger Ailes once viewed as a protege, and who edited Ailes' upstate New York newspapers. They had a falling out, and now, Lindsley has written a book, one that he was unable to find a publisher for. It is a pseudo-memoir, filled with anecdotes about Ailes. "In reality, Lindsley says he had come to feel increasingly suffocated by Ailes' paranoia. ('Paranoia was his great comfort,' he says.) Ailes was convinced, for example, that President Barack Obama was working an operative inside Fox News, and he hounded staff members in an effort to out the mole, according to one Fox News executive. 'He couldn't rest easy at all in life. Peace was a phantom. He was always raging,' Lindsley says of Ailes."

MUCH ADO ABOUT MEGYN KELLY: Megyn Kelly's new NBC morning show is just one week away, and the gossip mill continues to churn. The latest comes from Vanity Fair's Sarah Ellison. Kelly's morning show will be a very different than her Sunday evening program, which debuted over the summer to lackluster ratings. The morning show will be broader, with a live audience. It will be part of the "Today" franchise, which is the most lucrative part of NBC News. How will Kelly make the transition from primetime cable news host to morning talk show host? We'll find out soon.

ESPN, AGAIN: There have been some updates to the ESPN/Jemele Hill/President Trump story since Friday's newsletter, so it is worth including them here:

-Trump attacked ESPN on Twitter. ESPN public editor Jim Brady weighed in : "ESPN, like all media companies, is grappling with new issues: Objectivity seems to be a dying ideal, and, in a crowded media environment, keeping your editorial volume at a moderate level isn't always good for business. And, as I've written before, media companies are simultaneously asking many of their personalities to be active and engaging on social media but not partisan or opinionated. It's a line that is, at best, blurry and, at worst, nonexistent."

-The New York Times and Sports Illustrated questioned whether ESPN could fire Hill for her tweets, even if the channel decided to.

-Columns and thoughts on the dust-up poured into my inbox. This one, in Cosmopolitan, by Brittney Cooper, stood out to me and is worth a read. "Jemele Hill told the truth. But we live in a post-truth, post-facts era, where anything that makes us uncomfortable is a lie. If this moment of Hurricanes Harvey and Irma and the destruction they have wrought should teach us anything, it is about never-ending perils of building houses on sand."

MUST READ:

-What a wild story this is. A Queens bodega owner by day, an Egyptian TV pundit by night, broadcasting from his makeshift studio in the back room, sitting on a toilet seat as he talks politics and world affairs to thousands of viewers in Egypt.

-This story by the Times' Peter Baker and Ken Vogel is a great one. Even better: Vogel happened to be sitting at a nearby table at a D.C. steakhouse, which is where he overheard lawyer Ty Cobb.

REVOLVING DOOR:

-RealClearPolitics laid off 20 out of its 70 staffers, with editorial hit particularly hard.

-There were also layoffs at the Gannett-owned New Jersey newspaper The Record last week. One source says 11 people were let go. It isn't clear whether the layoffs were part of the one percent workforce reduction Gannett announced last week.

-The Washington Examiner has hired Tim Young as a video journalist. He'll also be bringing his

comedy show "No Things considered" to the Examiner.

-Two pieces of news about the news were released on Friday: First, NBC News confirmed that it had hired The New York Post's Claire Atkinson to lead a new media unit. Also joining the unit as contributors: BuzzFeed News editor-in-chief Ben Smith, Recode's Kara Swisher and Peter Kafka and Vanity Fair's Gabriel Sherman. CNN, meanwhile announced a new vertical, "Pacific," to cover the intersection of media and technology to be led by former POLITICO reporter Dylan Byers.

EXTRAS:

-The FCC stopped the clock on its review of the Sinclair-Tribune merger, telling Sinclair it needs to answer more questions before it can make a proper decision on the mega-deal.

-Really fascinating interview with NBCUniversal CEO Steve Burke, from The Information's Jessica Lessin. He hints that NBC has thought of making a digital acquisition (Vox? BuzzFeed) and says this of Facebook and Snap: "Snap treats professional content with respect, unlike Facebook, just to give a real pointed example. We are making real money on Snap."

-Government agencies are increasingly filing lawsuits against individuals or groups seeking public records.

-Following the Facebook news from last week: The Hive examines whether Jared Kushner's data operation may have helped select targets for the Russians.

-Fox News is relaunching its website today, with an emphasis on getting people to log in using their cable TV credentials.

-Snapchat removed Al Jazeera's Discover channel in Saudi Arabia, after a request from the Saudi government.

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Today's POLITICO Playbook presented by CTIA

By ANNA PALMER (anna@politico.com; @apalmerdc), JAKE SHERMAN (sherman@politico.com; @JakeSherman) and DANIEL LIPPMAN (daniel@politico.com; @dlippman)

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Good Sunday morning. TRUMP TO ALABAMA -- ALEX ISENSTADT GETS THE BACKSTORY -- "Trump takes on Bannon in Alabama Senate showdown: If Luther Strange loses, many Republicans fear it would trigger a wave of primary challenges against GOP incumbents next year": "President Donald Trump's decision Saturday to intervene in the Alabama special election followed weeks of pleas from senior Republicans who fear that a loss will invite a wave of primary challenges against GOP incumbents and damage the party in the 2018 midterms.

"The national party had mounted a full-court press ahead of the Sept. 26 election to persuade the president to make a late visit to the state, where controversial former judge Roy Moore has opened a significant lead over incumbent Sen. Luther Strange. Trump remains popular in Alabama even as his support has diminished elsewhere. ...

"Trump's unexpected move sets the stage for a showdown between the president and his recently departed chief strategist, Steve Bannon, who is all-in for Moore. Bannon has cast the Alabama race as an-important clash between grass-roots conservatives and the Washington establishment - and a test for whether other incumbent senators can be successfully challenged by insurgents in 2018." http://politi.co/2hafSi3

-- WAPO'S MICHAEL SCHERER and **MATEA GOLD:** "'It's shaping up to be McConnell, the Senate Leadership Fund and the Chamber against Bannon,' said Scott Reed, the senior political strategist for the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. 'And we will take that fight.' ... Reed echoed the criticism of Bannon for breaking with Trump. 'He is turning into a rallying point for the alt-right, which is kind of bizarre because half of what he does is damage his former client and friend, whom he served as chief strategist for,'

Reed said." http://wapo.st/2x773j8

THE PRESIDENT SPEAKS -- at 7:40 a.m.: "Attorney General Bill Schuette will be a fantastic Governor for the great State of Michigan. I am bringing back your jobs and Bill will help" ... **at 7:53 a.m.:** "I spoke with President Moon of South Korea last night. Asked him how Rocket Man is doing. Long gas lines forming in North Korea. Too bad!" ... **at 9 a.m.:** "Important meetings and calls scheduled for today. Military and economy are getting stronger by the day, and our enemies know it. #MAGA".

-- TRUMP goes to New York tonight.

CLIMATE WATCH -- "Trump Administration Seeks to Avoid Withdrawal From Paris Climate Accord, International Climate Officials Say: White House spokeswoman says 'no change' in U.S. position on deal," by WSJ's Emre Peker: "Trump administration officials said Saturday the U.S. wouldn't pull out of the Paris Agreement, offering to re-engage in the international deal to fight climate change, according to multiple officials at a global warming summit. The U.S. position on reviewing the terms of its participation in the landmark accord came during a meeting of more than 30 ministers led by Canada, China and the European Union in Montreal. ... U.S. officials in Montreal, led by White House senior adviser Everett Eissenstat, broached revising U.S. climate-change goals, two participants said, signaling a compromise that would keep the U.S. at the table even if it meant weakening the international effort.

"Still, the move would maintain international unity behind the painstakingly negotiated Paris accord, after Mr. Trump suggested he might seek a new agreement. ... In a statement Saturday afternoon, a White House spokeswoman said the administration's position on Paris had not changed, but also noted that the president's stance on withdrawing from the deal had never been set in stone. 'There has been no change in the U.S.'s position on the Paris agreement,' said deputy press secretary Lindsay Walters. 'As the president has made abundantly clear, the U.S. is withdrawing unless we can re-enter on terms that are more favorable to our country.'" http://on.wsj.com/2frk9h4

THE LATEST ON THE LONDON ATTACK -- "UK police arrest 2nd man in London subway attack case," by AP's Gregory Katz in London: "Police said Sunday that a 21-year-old man was arrested late Saturday night in Hounslow in west London and is being held under the Terrorism Act. He is being questioned at a south London police station but has not been charged or identified. Two men are now in custody for possible roles in the bombing attack on a rush-hour subway train Friday morning that injured 29 people in London. An 18-year-old man was arrested Saturday in the departure area of the port of Dover, where ferries leave for France." http://bit.ly/2xHnpzL

--AP BULLETINS -- at 10:07 a.m.: "LONDON (AP) - British officials lower the country's terrorist threat level from 'critical' to 'severe.'" ... **at 9:27 a.m.**: "PARIS (AP) - Prosecutor: 4 female US tourists attacked with acid in Marseille's main train station; woman arrested."

ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH: "Protests turn violent in Delmar Loop late Saturday; second night of post-verdict strife": "For the second consecutive night, peaceful daytime protests descended into late-night violence with broken windows and thrown rocks, water bottles and garbage can lids following Friday's acquittal of a white former police officer in the shooting death of a black suspect." http://bit.ly/2h7cbNQ

****** **A message from CTIA and America's wireless industry:** The global race to deploy 5G wireless is on-and America needs to win. Government action on spectrum and infrastructure policy will allow U.S. wireless companies to invest $275 billion, create more than 3 million jobs, and add $500 billion to the economy, according to Accenture. Learn more at CTIA.org. ******

COMING ATTRACTIONS -- THIS WEEK IN TURTLE BAY ...

-- ON FOX NEWS SUNDAY, NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISOR H.R. MCMASTER said the three themes Trump will hit on in his maiden speech at the U.N. are protecting American people, promoting American prosperity and promoting accountability and sovereignty.

-- "Tillerson heads to U.N. gathering with Haley waiting in the wings," by Annie Karni: "The disagreement among Trump administration officials and Washington's foreign policy intelligentsia is not about if but rather when U.N. Ambassador Nikki Haley eclipsed Secretary of State Rex Tillerson as America's top diplomat. As President Donald Trump heads to New York for his first United Nations General Assembly, the weeklong gathering is being viewed as the most public test yet for the shrunken diplomat at Foggy Bottom - an opportunity for Tillerson to reassert himself by the president's side as something more than a bean-counter, or risk being overshadowed by Haley on the most high-profile stage to date.

"It would be unprecedented for a U.N. ambassador to upstage a secretary of state at the diplomatic Super Bowl. UNGA is typically a frenetic week of parties, speeches, bilateral meetings and Manhattan traffic jams, during which the ambassador cedes the yearlong spotlight she enjoys at U.N. headquarters to officials higher up the food chain. But 'unprecedented' is the Trump administration's unofficial slogan. And Haley, the former governor of South Carolina, is seen as one of its most ambitious players, competing for prominence against a former Exxon Mobil CEO, who has been criticized for accepting the lead role at the State Department only to oversee a dramatic shrinkage of its budget and influence." http://politi.co/2fskIY0

-- "Trump Admin Doesn't Expect Israeli-Palestinian Peace Breakthrough During U.N. General Assembly," by Haaretz's Amir Tibon and Barak Ravid: "The Trump administration does not expect any kind of breakthrough regarding the Israeli-Palestinian peace process during the United Nations General Assembly this week despite their overall optimism, a senior White House official told Haaretz on Sunday. U.S. President Donald Trump will meet with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and

Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas on the sidelines of the diplomatic gathering, but the senior official noted that 'this week is not about the peace effort.' ...

"The official noted that Trump's senior adviser and son-in-law, Jared Kushner, recently returned from a visit to the region together with senior advisers Jason Greenblatt and Dina Powell. The official called the visit 'very productive' and said that 'those peace conversations are continuing at a steady pace and will be mostly separate from the United Nations meetings.'" http://bit.ly/2xJcy8g

REMEMBER HIM? -- ERIC CANTOR in the **NYT: "How to End the Immigration Wars":** "Only Congress can fix this mess. It should do so by providing a path for law-abiding Dreamers to obtain a green card and ultimately, full citizenship.

"In exchange for a much improved program for Dreamers , Congress should significantly increase America's border security by funding additional personnel, technology and physical resources at our border. While President Trump's "wall" has gotten all the political attention, much of the border can be secured more quickly and efficiently by other means. In addition, Congress should require the institution of a comprehensive biometric entry-exit system to prevent visa overstays." http://nyti.ms/2xIVjUM

-- THIS IS MILES from where the debate is at this moment.

CARL HULSE speaks to **SENATE MAJORITY LEADER MITCH MCCONNELL (R-KY.)** on the NYT's "The New Washington" podcast: **ON STEVE BANNON DECLARING WAR ON THE ESTABLISHMENT:** "I don't have any reaction to it." http://nyti.ms/2wyFIHO

BLAST FROM THE PAST -- "Sources: Michael Grimm to run for old seat in Congress," by NY1 News: "NY1 has learned that former New York congressman Michael Grimm will run for his old seat, less than 16 months after he was released from federal prison. Sources said Grimm will hold a rally Oct. 1 in New Dorp, where he is expected to announce his candidacy for next year's Republican primary against current Rep. Dan Donovan, who represents Staten Island and parts of south Brooklyn.

"A federal tax fraud conviction appeared to end Michael Grimm's political career nearly three years ago, after he admitted to paying several workers off-the books at a Manhattan restaurant that he owned. But after he resigned his seat and served seven months in prison, Grimm began taking steps back toward the political arena. He created a new Twitter account, posting opinions and politician-style photos." http://bit.ly/2y6O314

#CONCORDIA17: POLITICO is the official media partner of the 2017 Concordia Annual Summit taking place in conjunction with the UN General Assembly in NYC tomorrow and Tuesday. Join us in the Big Apple as we host conversations with world leaders, industry experts, current and former heads of states, C-suite executives, and senior

congressional and administration officials. ***Register here:*** http://bit.ly/2wETVit

Playbook Reads

REAL HEADLINE -- FRONT PAGE OF THE DETROIT FREE PRESS -- "Kid Rock, Eminem, ICP carve own paths in politics" http://bit.ly/2yhyuUZ

--A PLAYBOOKER EMAILS: At Little Caesars Arena last night in Detroit, Kid Rock, who was the kickoff artist for the opening of the arena, was introduced as "the next senator of the great state of Michigan" as a Kid Rock '18 for U.S. Senate image appeared on the stage's video screen.

A POLITICAL LAYUP -- FRONT PAGE OF THE OMAHA WORLD-HERALD -- "Sen. Joni Ernst takes new swing at taxpayer-subsidized perks of former presidents" http://bit.ly/2yil8rl

WHAT MITT ROMNEY'S READING -- "Orrin Hatch, 83, says another campaign hinges on his health: 'I'm older but you know, nothing stops me,'" by Salt Lake Tribune's Tommy Burr: "Hatch, who describes himself as 'a tough old bird' at 83, acknowledges that his age has affected him -- though he says it hasn't slowed him down, and a medical report provided by his office says he's physically fit. The Utah Republican is the third oldest member of the Senate, and his office frequently jokes on social media about the senator's age, quipping that he's been around since the Civil War or the Louisiana Purchase in 1803. ... As the longest-serving Republican senator, Hatch is the Senate president pro tempore and third in line for the presidency -- a position that earns him a round-the-clock security detail.

"Hatch says he wakes up around 5 a.m., works out on a stationary bike and does some stretching exercises. ... Hatch acknowledges his eyes have been bugging him of late - they're frequently red and staffers print his remarks in large type to make sure he can read them - and he wears a hearing aid in his right ear. When he speaks, he's often hard to hear, a point the senator attributes to his job. ... Hatch's schedule on that day his office arranged for The Tribune to spend with him ran 27 items long, starting at 6:25 a.m. and wrapping up at 7 p.m. He was almost constantly on the move, from hearings to meetings to calls." http://bit.ly/2wnwUUw

SUNDAY BEST -- GEORGE STEPHANOPOULOS speaks with **BRITISH PRIME MINISTER THERESA MAY** on **ABC'S "THIS WEEK": STEPHANOPOULOS:** "You're coming to the United States this week. You're speaking to the United Nations. You're relatively unknown to most Americans. What's the most important thing you want them to know about what you're trying to achieve?" **MAY:** "Well, what I'm -- there are two things. One is this issue of ensuring that we can stop terrorists from plotting online, plotting on the internet, and that we can stop the spread of the hateful extremist ideology, which can inspire terrorism. I think that's really important for us. And another

issue I'm going to be talking about is something that most people probably don't think about, don't think happens. It's what I call modern slavery, which is when people are being effectively taken into servitude, into slavery, for sexual exploitation or labor exploitation. It's happening under our noses."

-- ON TRUMP: STEPHANOPOULOS: "You've also got the travel ban. His comments after Charlottesville. Pulling out of the Paris Climate Change Agreement. Big differences." **MAY:** "Well, I think the point about the special relationship between the U.K. and the U.S. is that when we do disagree we're able to say so. And -- pretty bluntly. And I'm -- for example, on the Paris issue that you talk about, the Paris Climate Change Agreement, I've made very clear I was dismayed when America decided to pull out of that. And I -- as I've said to President Trump, I hope that they'll be able-- able to find a way for America to come back into the agreement."

STEPHANOPOULOS: "Do you still think he'll be able to come here for a state visit or is that just not gonna happen?" **MAY:** "No, Her Majesty the Queen-- issued the invitation. The president has accepted it. It's just a question of getting dates to -- and sorting out the logistics." **STEPHANOPOULOS:** "So it has nothing to do with the opposition here in the United Kingdom?" **MAY:** "No, this is -- this is about finding dates when -- the invitation was issued and the invitation has been accepted."

DANA BASH speaks to **U.N. AMBASSADOR NIKKI HALEY** on **CNN'S "STATE OF THE UNION": BASH:** "Well I think General Mattis will take care of it. You're talking about the Pentagon and you're talking about a military option. Is that what 'fire and fury' meant?" **HALEY:** "You have to ask the President what fire and fury meant. But I think we all know that basically if North Korea keeps on with this reckless behavior, if the United States has to defend itself or defend its allies in any way, North Korea will be destroyed. And we all know that. And none of us want that. None of us want war. But we also have to look at the fact that you are dealing with someone who is being reckless, irresponsible and is continuing to give threats not only to the United States, but to all of their allies. So something is going to have to be done. We're trying every other possibility that we have but there's a whole lot of military options on the table."

-- DANA also spoke to **SEN. DIANNE FEINSTEIN: BASH:** "Do you have any idea when that's going to happen, that public testimony from Donald Trump Jr.?" **FEINSTEIN:** "Well, it will be this fall. I know that for sure. Things keep changing, not by design, but by just the press of other business on the committee. And I think people have to anticipate -- I know because, as I walk through the halls, there's a rush of press, you know, with question after question. It may take a long time. This could take a year, a year-and-a-half, if not more."

H.R. MCMASTER to **CHRIS WALLACE** on **"FOX NEWS SUNDAY"** on **NORTH KOREA:** "It really depends on how we see this threat continue to manifest itself and our judgment about how much time we have. We are out of road because in the past the approach taken to the problem of North Korea and the Kim regime over decades has been to enter into long drawn-out negotiations that then deliver an unsatisfactory

agreement. An agreement that, then, the North Korean regime breaks. And with that agreement does though that's particularly dangerous oftentimes - what has all the time in the past - is lock in the status quo as the new normal. And this regime is so close now to threatening the United States and others with a nuclear weapon, that we really have to move with a great deal of urgency on sanctions, on diplomacy and on preparing if necessary a military option."

ATTN. NANCY PELOSI AND CHUCK SCHUMER -- CHUCK TODD spoke with **SEN. TOM COTTON (R-ARK.)** on **"MEET THE PRESS"** : "[I]f you pass the so-called Dream Act it'll be the single biggest amnesty in the history of the United States. Even bigger than the 1986 amnesty which Ronald Reagan said was his biggest mistake in office."

****** **A message from CTIA and America's wireless industry:** Tomorrow's 5G networks will create 3 million jobs, add $500 billion to the economy, and fuel innovation and entrepreneurialism across every sector. If policymakers move quickly to release more spectrum and modernize infrastructure rules, the wireless industry stands ready to invest $275 billion to build these next-gen networks, according to Accenture. This will drive breakthrough advancements in remote health care, connected vehicles, energy, education and beyond-making our lives better and safer. But the race to deploy 5G wireless networks is underway-and we're at a critical moment. The EU, China, Japan, South Korea and others are doing everything they can to win. If policymakers act now, the U.S. can continue our global leadership in wireless. Learn how at CTIA.org. ******

THE OPPOSITION -- "California tears into Trump," by California Playbooker David Siders in Sacramento: "Ripping into Donald Trump in the final hours of this year's legislative session, California lawmakers passed measures urging Congress to censure the president, bucking his immigration policies and seeking to force him to release his tax returns. They also formally called on Trump 'to publicly apologize to all Americans for his racist and bigoted behavior.' If there was any question about the location of the nerve center of the anti-Trump resistance, it was settled with a defiant fusillade of legislation Friday and Saturday memorializing California's antipathy toward the president.

"The end-of-session rush of bills served as a reminder of the limitations of the president's recent diplomacy with Democrats in Washington - and of an unrelenting effort to keep pressure on the president from afar. 'The issue of resistance is beyond the symbolism,' Senate President Pro Tem Kevin de León said after the session officially closed. 'There's real lives at stake ... and I think that a lot of other municipalities, as well as other states, are looking towards California ... to be the leader of this resistance.'" http://politi.co/2wyH7s7

BONUS GREAT WEEKEND READS, curated by Daniel Lippman:

--"How Condé Nast Put the Squeeze on New Yorker Cartoonists," by Seth Simons in Paste Magazine - per Longreads' description: "When Bob Mankoff retired from the New Yorker after twenty years as the Cartoon Editor, he left behind one of most

successful new media models of the era: The Cartoon Bank. It was a database he founded in 1992 and ran from an apartment in Yonkers, and it helped cartoonists license their work for thousands of dollars a month. But when Condé Nast bought the Bank from Mankoff in 1997, the money began to dry up and the model began to fail." http://bit.ly/2x2R6uk

--"The Art of Space Art," by Kastalia Medrano in The Paris Review: "NASA, founded in 1958, has commissioned space art since its inception, and ... [has] sponsored artists' residencies over the years. ... NASA had a critical revelation early on: an astonishing discovery means nothing if the public only registers it as an abstraction." http://bit.ly/2vZvZFo (h/t ALDaily.com)

--"Why Happy People Cheat," by Esther Perel in the October Atlantic: "A good marriage is no guarantee against infidelity." http://theatln.tc/2wvxomC

--"Too close for comfort: How social media changed how we talk to (and about) each other in America," by Yahoo News' Garance Franke-Ruta: "Social media has, by design, fundamentally reshaped how we have conversations with each other, moving casual speech from the auditory ether to the realm of the written. And it has vastly expanded the audience for conversations that used to happen in small communities of relatively similar people, replacing them with one-to-many interactions with people who potentially have a wide array of views, and weak or even no direct personal ties." https://yhoo.it/2h823k9

--"How Israel Went Nuclear," by Shimon Peres in Tablet: "The father of Israel's nuclear deterrent reveals how it was built. An exclusive excerpt from 'No Room For Small Dreams,' Shimon Peres' posthumous autobiography." http://bit.ly/2h7gODL (h/t TheBrowser.com) ... ***$17.74 on Amazon*** http://amzn.to/2f0srMj

--"The Ideal Husband," by Susan Sontag in the Sept. 26, 1963 issue of the N.Y. Review of Books, reviewing "Notebooks, 1935-42," by Albert Camus: "Notoriously, women tolerate qualities in a lover-moodiness, selfishness, unreliability, brutality-that they would never countenance in a husband, in return for excitement, an infusion of intense feeling. In the same way, readers put up with unintelligibility, obsessiveness, painful truths, lies, bad grammar-if, in compensation, the writer allows them to savor rare emotions and dangerous sensations." http://bit.ly/2h88UtJ ... ***$16.19 on Amazon*** http://amzn.to/2x2WaPm

--"A Weird MIT Dorm Dies, and a Crisis Blooms at Colleges," by Emily Dreyfuss in Wired: "This was Senior House, the oldest dormitory on campus, built in 1916 by the architect William Welles Bosworth. For 101 years it welcomed freshman and returning students. Since the '60s it was a proudly anarchic community of creative misfits and self-described outcasts-the special kind of brilliant oddballs who couldn't or didn't want to fit in with the mainstream eggheads at MIT." http://bit.ly/2f1vaVv (h/t Longform.org)

--"The Girl Gangs of El Salvador," by Lauren Markham in Pacific Standard Magazine:

"Joining a gang seemed like the best way to evade violence for women in El Salvador, but in many cases it only put them more squarely in danger." http://bit.ly/2f0oRBQ

--"Welcome to the Far Eastern Conference," by Wells Tower in the April 2011 edition of GQ: "Exiled from the NBA, vilified by the press, and ridiculed for a serious of questionable YouTube videos (eating Vaseline? C'mon!), Stephon Marbury is seeking redemption-and vast riches-in basketball-mad China. Now, if he can just win over his Communist bosses, he'll be the biggest thing since Yao Ming." http://bit.ly/2x5l90l

--"The Perfect Wife," by Ariel Levy in The New Yorker's Sept. 30, 2013 issue: "How Edith Windsor fell in love, got married, and won a landmark case for gay marriage." http://bit.ly/2fnYsyj

--"The Secret History of Fema," by Garrett Graff in Wired: "FEMA has always been an odd beast inside the government-an agency that has existed far from the spotlight except for the occasional high-stakes appearance during moments of critical need. ... During the past seven decades, the agency has evolved from a top-secret series of bunkers designed to protect U.S. officials in case of a nuclear attack to a sprawling bureaucratic agency tasked with mobilizing help in the midst of disaster." http://bit.ly/2x2cGin

--"'The Way to Survive It Was to Make A's,'" by Mosi Secret in the N.Y. Times Magazine: "They were the first black boys to integrate the South's elite prep schools. They drove themselves to excel in an unfamiliar environment. But at what cost?" http://nyti.ms/2xFs84U

--"Robert Redford on Trump: 'He's Our Fault,'" by Michael Hainey in Esquire: "The legendary actor-activist isn't going to spend time overanalyzing the president. He'd rather America look in the mirror." http://bit.ly/2x3uTMG

Playbookers

SPOTTED: Jason Miller celebrating his wife's birthday last night at Archipelago on U St. He bought conservative reporters nearby a round of drinks at the Tiki-themed bar ... Jake Sullivan on Friday in Dupont Circle ... Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska) yesterday at the Eastern Market flea market, "just strolling and looking at the stalls."

SPOTTED at Jake Kastan's birthday party last night at Stoney's on P Street: Brendan Buck, Garrett Haake, Jenna Sakwa, Jill Barclay, Ryan Williams, Lauren Pratapas, AshLee Strong, Corey Bliss, Zach Roday, Eli and Jenna Miller.

WEEKEND WEDDINGS -- SEC TRUCE CALLED! Mary-Morgan Limperis, global director of field and event marketing at Cision and the pride of Alabama, and **David Culver,** VP at Distilled Spirits Council and the pride of Tennessee, tied the knot at the

Rast Ivy Mansion in Nashville, Tennessee. The specialty cocktail was named "The Harper" for their dog and had silver tequila, Velvet Falernum, lime juice and agave syrup. ***Pic*** http://bit.ly/2wyLnYA

--SPOTTED: Douglas and Liz Smith, Jake and Amanda Perry, Doug and Kelly Davenport, Ben Jenkins, Yebbie Watkins, Jesse and Devon McCollum, Lyndon Boozer and Karen Anderson, Cara Camacho and Adam Hodge, Mike Hacker, Colin Mueller, Tanya Fulkerson, Rhod Shaw, Rich Lopez, Peter Cressy, Mark Gorman, Drew Goesl, and Andrew and Laura Smith.

-- Louise Dufresne, CBS News producer, and **Will Serio,** communications director for Rep. Rosa DeLauro (D-Conn.), were married last night at Woodend Sanctuary in Chevy Chase, Maryland. The couple met in college at Vassar. "Friends and family watched the two communicators' nuptials in the scenic setting before heading inside to see the couple's first dance to 'At Last.'" ***Pics*** http://bit.ly/2h9jULl ... http://bit.ly/2wymDjk

-- Ian Lindemann, RNC alum and campaign manager for Victor Mitchell's Colorado gubernatorial race, married **Allison Bruhl,** an ENT physician assistant, at 11,550ft in Keystone, Colorado. They met on a congressional campaign in 2012. Sen. Cory Gardner (R-Colo.) officiated. ***Pic*** http://bit.ly/2xqi2DP **SPOTTED:** Groomsmen Chris Hansen and Owen Loftus, Frank Mataipule, Megan Cummings, Scott and Alexis Darnell, Hunter Mullins, Kristian Hemphill, Ali Pardo, Caleb Worthen, Paige and Jefferson Thomas, Hillary and Justin Prendergast, Michael Fortney, Hayden Stone, and Sarah Ramig.

-- Hamilton Place Strategies' **Dylan Riddle** and Hogar Immigrant Services' **Rebecca Fetters** married in Kennebunkport, Maine this weekend. The couple met at Gettysburg College. ***Pics*** http://bit.ly/2xIYVWQ ... http://bit.ly/2haif4r

-- Jessica Reinis, a senior manager of communications content production at Charter Communications in Connecticut, on Saturday married **Alex Yergin**, who recently worked in business development at Palantir Technologies in NYC, at the Yergin family residence in Siasconset, Massachusetts. Yergin is an alum of Energy and Commerce, and the McCain and Romney campaigns. Reinis was previously an associate producer for CNN's "Erin Burnett OutFront." ***Pics*** http://bit.ly/2xqLcmf ... http://bit.ly/2w1vlXZ

WELCOME TO THE WORLD -- Amber (Wilkerson) Marchand, managing director at Hamilton Place Strategies and a Roy Blunt and NRSC alum, and **Sterling Marchand,** associate at Baker Botts and a House Homeland security committee alum, email friends and family: "I'm thrilled to share the news that [Friday] night God blessed our family with another beautiful and healthy little boy, born September 15 at 7:51 p.m. (7 lbs, 15 oz; 20 inches)! This morning Foster (5), Quinn (4), and Ford (2) were thrilled to meet their new little brother, Milo William Henry." ***Pics*** http://bit.ly/2frBfev ... http://bit.ly/2fcmy2k ... http://bit.ly/2xHYpIn

BIRTHDAY OF THE DAY: David Litt, former Obama speechwriter, head D.C.

writer/producer for Funny Or Die and author of "Thanks, Obama: My Hopey, Changey White House Years," out Tuesday (***$18.29 on Amazon:*** http://amzn.to/2jxwepz ***-- his NYT op-ed today*** http://nyti.ms/2y6b1p2). **How he's celebrating:** "Jacqui, my fiancée, has a surprise planned, but I haven't been able to figure it out. She deals harshly with leakers." **Read his Playbook Plus Q&A:** http://politi.co/2w224wr

BIRTHDAYS: Don Baer, Worldwide Chair and CEO of Burson-Marsteller, celebrating in Amsterdam with his wife Nancy Bard -- their 30th wedding anniversary is on Wednesday (hat tips: Catherine Sullivan and Ben Chang) ... Richard Wolffe, columnist at the Guardian and CDO and CMO of Global Citizen, is 49 ... Bill Briggs ... Sen. Chuck Grassley (R-Iowa) is 84. He celebrated by getting a cake from Sen. Dianne Feinstein at a Judiciary Committee hearing on Thursday (***2-min. video*** http://bit.ly/2ydiXWt). He also shares his birthday with Constitution Day, which was the topic of his weekly Q&A this week (http://bit.ly/2xFNFtZ) ... retired Marine Gen. Anthony Zinni is 74 ... retired Justice David Souter is 78 ... writer Marin Cogan, a POLITICO alum who is also co-director of Princeton's Summer Journalism Program ... BuzzFeed's Henry Gomez (h/t Daniel Strauss) ... Angie Read ... Bill Bold ... Jack Keane, oldest son of Perkins Coie Political Law Group's Kate Keane ... Thomas Bride ... Anna Taylor ...

... Sergio Rodriguera, chief strategy officer at Credit Junction ... C-SPAN's Steve Scully ... Courtney O'Donnell, head of global external affairs at Airbnb and a Jill Biden alum ... Steve Kerrigan, president of Mass Military Heroes Fund, CEO of the 2013 Presidential Inauguration and Mass. Lt. Governor candidate, is 46 ... Kimberley Fritts, CEO of the Podesta Group (h/ts Jon Haber) ... Princeton econ professor Alan Krueger is 57 ... Politico Europe's Sara Stefanini ... Anthony Coley, EVP and managing director of comms at the Managed Funds Association, is 39 ... Nick Melvoin, the youngest and newest member of the LA school board, is 31 (h/t former NYU classmate Alex Levy) ... Courtney Laydon ... Leah V. Le'Vell, WH comms associate, one of the Hill's "50 Most Beautiful," former RNC and PIC staffer (h/t Paris Dennard) ... Amgen's Kathryn Phelps (h/t Bo Ollison) ... Christine Martin ... Monica Patel ... TJ Helmstetter, comms director for Americans for Tax Fairness ... 1776's Morgan Gress, the pride of Buffalo, NY, who gets married on Sept. 30 (h/ts fiancé Brian Johnson and Peter Cherukuri) ... Meghan Clyne ... Politico's John Clark ... Andrea Billups ... Doug Johnson ... Matt Everett ... Mackey Dykes ... Nate Berkus ... Claire Magee ... Christine Martin ... Adam Abrams ... Frayda Lieber ... Sandra Abrevaya ... Andrew High ... Brian Patrick ... Andrew Carter ... Cynthia Ruccia ... Isabel Morin ... Darcy Haber (h/ts Teresa Vilmain)

****** **A message from CTIA and America's wireless industry:** We need new rules for new 5G networks. New policies that will allow the U.S. to win the race to 5G and enable breakthrough advancements in healthcare, transportation, energy and more. First, a pipeline of low-, mid-, and high-band spectrum will help meet today's mobile needs and enable the 5G networks of tomorrow. Second, every level of government must modernize their rules for the building of small cell wireless infrastructure. Third, permanent and common sense federal regulations for interstate services like mobile broadband will preserve an open internet and protect consumer privacy while promoting innovation and investment. Finally, America's tax structure must be updated to spur

billions of dollars in new 5G investment. Learn more about how wireless is working to invest in America's future at CTIA.org. ******

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Today's POLITICO Playbook presented by CTIA

By ANNA PALMER (anna@politico.com; @apalmerdc), JAKE SHERMAN (sherman@politico.com; @JakeSherman) and DANIEL LIPPMAN (daniel@politico.com; @dlippman)

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Driving the Day

Good Saturday morning. SPOTTED: Sean Spicer entering the Four Seasons last night for dinner. ... Sarah Huckabee Sanders was nearby at Clyde's in Georgetown.

W.H. LEG AFFAIRS DIRECTOR MARC SHORT on **CNN** last night: "'I think that what the definition of a wall is, is something that we all need to have a serious conversation' about. ... Short said, 'in some cases,' it would be a kind of fencing. 'It is a myriad of different structures,' Short said." http://cnn.it/2w1cw78

JOSH GERSTEIN SCOOP -- "Another prosecutor joins Trump-Russia probe": "An attorney working on the Justice Department's highest-profile money laundering case recently transferred off that assignment in order to join the staff of the special prosecutor investigating the Trump campaign's potential ties to Russia, POLITICO has learned. Attorney Kyle Freeny was among the prosecutors on hand Friday as a spokesman for former Trump campaign chairman Paul Manafort, Jason Maloni, testified before a grand jury at federal court in Washington.

"Freeny, whose assignment to Special Counsel Robert Mueller's staff has not been previously reported, is the 17th lawyer known to be working with the former FBI chief on the investigation into Russian meddling in the 2016 presidential election. ... Before being detailed to Mueller's team, Freeny was shepherding the Justice Department's headline-grabbing effort to seize the profits from the film 'The Wolf of Wall Street' on grounds that the film was financed with assets looted from the Malaysian government." http://politi.co/2h7AXNK

TRUMP WORLD -- AP: "Still no charity money from leftover Trump inaugural funds," by Jeff Horwitz and Julie Bykowicz: "President Donald Trump's inaugural

committee raised an unprecedented $107 million for a ceremony that officials promised would be 'workmanlike,' and the committee pledged to give leftover funds to charity. Nearly eight months later, the group has helped pay for redecorating at the White House and the vice president's residence in Washington. But nothing has yet gone to charity.

"What is left from the massive fundraising is a mystery, clouded by messy and, at times, budget-busting management of a private fund that requires little public disclosure. The Associated Press spoke with eight people - vendors, donors and Trump associates - involved in planning and political fundraising for the celebration, an event that provides an early look at the new president's management style and priorities. The people described a chaotic process marked by last-minute decisions, staffing turnover and little financial oversight.

"Among the head-scratching line-items was the pre-inaugural Lincoln Memorial concert, which came with a $25 million price tag, according to four of the people. The price dwarfs a similar event staged eight years earlier for Obama's first inauguration. One person familiar with the committee's thinking said the $25 million included broadcasting costs and other events, complicating an apples-to-apples comparison with past inaugural concert expenses." http://bit.ly/2x55Mcm

THE LATEST ON THE LONDON ATTACK: "UK police make 'significant' arrest in London subway blast," by AP's Gregory Katz in London: "British police made a 'significant' arrest in the urgent manhunt for suspects a day after the London subway blast that injured more than two dozen people, authorities said Saturday. Police said that an 18-year-old man was arrested by Kent police in the port of Dover on the English Channel. He is being questioned under the Terrorism Act. Dover is a major ferry port for travel between Britain and France.

"'We have made a significant arrest in our investigation this morning,' Deputy Assistant Police Commissioner Neil Basu said. But he warned that the investigation was ongoing and the terrorist threat level remains at 'critical,' meaning a government task force that includes the security services believes another attack is imminent. Basu's comments suggested that other dangerous suspects may still be at large.

"The 18-year-old suspect hasn't been charged or identified. Police say he will be brought to a south London police station for more questioning. Police haven't said if he is suspected of planting the bomb or if he played a supporting role in a possible plot." http://bit.ly/2fqj60P

THE NEW NARRATIVE ON OBAMACARE REPEAL ...

-- "Cassidy says he's close to having the votes to pass Obamacare repeal," by Adam Cancryn: "Sen. Bill Cassidy Friday sought to rally support for the last-ditch Obamacare repeal plan he co-authored, saying he believes he's on the verge of winning the final votes needed to jam it through the Senate.

"Cassidy claims that as many as 49 GOP senators have expressed support but doesn't have a hard whip count with just days left to use a fast-track process allowing the bill to pass with a simply majority. And his search for the elusive 50 'aye' votes got harder Thursday, when Sen. Rand Paul announced his opposition. ...

"That leaves Cassidy and Graham with the slimmest margin for error. With Democrats unified against any attempt to dismantle Obamacare, Republicans can only absorb two defections and still have Vice President Mike Pence cast a tie-breaking vote in favor of the bill. That means the measure needs the backing of at least two of the three senators -- Susan Collins, Lisa Murkowski and John McCain -- who opposed the GOP's last attempt at repeal." http://politi.co/2h7zczY

-- WHAT TO KNOW ABOUT GRAHAM-CASSIDY : This is a real thing, according to aides close to the process. In a private lunch of Republican senators on Thursday, they decided this was a bill worth pursuing. That doesn't mean this will be quick. Leadership needs to whip the bill, submit it for a Congressional Budget Office score and have the parliamentarian check it for issues. It's a heavy lift but it could get through. Speaker Paul Ryan and House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy have been saying nice things about it publicly.

-- @SenSchumer: "Red Alert #Trumpcare is back & Senate GOP has until Sept 30 to pass their bill. We need your voices more than ever!"

ELANA SCHOR -- "Left warns Pelosi, Schumer: Don't get too close to Trump": "'I am asserting that our base - our rank-and-file base - and a lot of us in the caucus, want to see ... or hear, periodically, that parameters are being set' in discussions with Trump, Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-Va.) said in an interview. 'And we get alarmed at the speculation that this might be a new day dawning.' 'Let's not fool ourselves,' Connolly added. 'He is this person we know, and I just think there must be both political and moral limitations with how far we're willing to cooperate with that.'" http://politi.co/2yeHMBc

IN FOGGY BOTTOM -- "With Cost-Cutting Zeal, Tillerson Whittles U.N. Delegation, Too," by NYT's Gardiner Harris: "Under orders from Secretary of State Rex W. Tillerson, the department's overall diplomatic delegation to the meetings that start Tuesday is expected to include about 140 officials, down from twice that number last year. Two weeks ago, the number was hovering around 80. But fierce internal complaints and questions from The New York Times led officials to make dozens of last-minute additions. Even so, the reduced delegation means that scores of meetings traditionally held by American officials will not occur.

"The Africa bureau, for instance, was initially told to slash its delegation of 30 top diplomats to 10 and then to reduce that number to just three, according to an Aug. 23 roster. The South and Central Asia bureau saw its delegation go from 30 to 10 to seven ... A host of bureaus had their delegations eliminated entirely, including those for democracy and human rights, human trafficking, oceans and the environment,

cyberissues, military issues and foreign assistance." http://nyti.ms/2x3Oj45

****** **A message from CTIA and America's wireless industry:** The global race to deploy 5G wireless is on-and America needs to win. Government action on spectrum and infrastructure policy will allow U.S. wireless companies to invest $275 billion, create more than 3 million jobs, and add $500 billion to the economy, according to Accenture. Learn more at CTIA.org. ******

TURTLE BAY WATCH -- TRUMP ADMINISTRATION'S DEBUT AT THE U.N. ...

-- BLOOMBERG'S MARGARET TALEV: "Trump's appearance at the UN -- highlighted by an address Tuesday before the world body -- is his biggest moment on the world stage since taking office. There is far more at stake than at the two economic summits in Europe he attended earlier this year. As he welcomes leaders from nearly 200 nations to his home town of New York, he'll press them to join U.S. efforts to constrain missile and nuclear programs in both North Korea and Iran. ...

"In addition to Trump and Haley, Vice President Mike Pence , Secretary of State Rex Tillerson, National Security Adviser H.R. McMaster, the president's adviser and son-in-law Jared Kushner and his National Economic Council director, Gary Cohn, are all expected to attend events in New York next week. Two key foreign leaders will not be on hand: Russian President Vladimir Putin and Chinese President Xi Jinping." https://bloom.bg/2x7iWTw

-- "Tillerson, Iranian Foreign Minister to Talk Nuke Deal Next Week," by Foreign Policy's Colum Lynch: "Secretary of State Rex Tillerson is preparing to take part in nuclear talks next week with Iranian Foreign Minister Javad Zarif and representatives of other key powers, according to several diplomatic sources, marking the first time the Trump administration's top diplomat will meet with his Iranian counterpart. The move comes about a month before President Donald Trump is scheduled to decide whether to certify to Congress that Iran is meeting its obligations under the 2015 nuclear pact, known officially as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, or JCPOA." http://atfp.co/2fcBYU0

FOR YOUR RADAR -- "North Korea says seeking military 'equilibrium' with U.S.," by Reuters' Christine Kim in Seoul and Michelle Nichols at the U.N.: "North Korea said on Saturday it aims to reach an 'equilibrium' of military force with the United States, which earlier signaled its patience for diplomacy is wearing thin after Pyongyang fired a missile over Japan for the second time in under a month. 'Our final goal is to establish the equilibrium of real force with the U.S. and make the U.S. rulers dare not talk about military option,' North Korean leader Kim Jong Un was quoted as saying by the state news agency, KCNA.

"Kim was shown beaming as he watched the missile fly from a moving launcher in photos released by the agency, surrounded by several officials. 'The combat efficiency and reliability of Hwasong-12 were thoroughly verified,' said Kim as quoted by KCNA.

Kim added the North's goal of completing its nuclear force had 'nearly reached the terminal." http://reut.rs/2y4lhgg

INSIDE THE WHITE HOUSE -- "Subway sandwiches and U.N. talk: Inside Sessions' first meeting with Trump," by Tara Palmeri: "When President Donald Trump meets Monday with world leaders to discuss overhauling the United Nations, it may provide some affirmation for a struggling member of the president's team: Jeff Sessions. While the attorney general's relationship with his boss has been fraught since Sessions recused himself from the Russia probe, it was the former Alabama senator's conviction that the New York real estate developer was the only person who could successfully modernize the U.N. that originally brought them together more than a decade ago.

"Sessions invited Trump to testify before a Senate subcommittee in 2005 as Congress was considering whether to extend a $1.2 billion loan to the UN for modernizing its decrepit headquarters on Manhattan's East River. Sessions opposed making the loan, and asked his then-chief of staff Rick Dearborn -- now a senior White House aide -- to invite the most famous real estate developer in the world to testify against it, according to an administration official familiar with events.

"They sealed their newfound alliance over Subway sandwiches in Sessions' office, joined by Melania Trump. 'One thing that Donald Trump and Jeff Sessions both have a great appreciation for is competence, and Sessions' admiration for Trump resulted from the level of the competence Trump exuded as a builder during his congressional testimony,' said the administration official. Trump has frequently railed against international institutions like the United Nations, vowing to minimize the U.S.'s financial footprint in foreign affairs." http://politi.co/2xpFAJk

-- "Kelly looking to revamp White House political, outreach offices," by Josh Dawsey and Andrew Restuccia: "President Donald Trump's chief of staff John Kelly has privately expressed concerns about the White House's political and outreach operations, and is weighing changes to both offices as part of his larger effort to professionalize a chaotic West Wing, according to four people familiar with his thinking.

"Kelly is particularly frustrated with the Office of the Public Liaison, these people say. The retired Marine Corps general has told White House aides that the office, which is charged with doing outreach to outside groups, has not been properly managed and has not done enough to build effective coalitions, leaving the president with few voluble defenders. George Sifakis, a close ally and personal friend of ousted chief of staff Reince Priebus, is stepping down at the end of this month as director of the office, and a replacement has not yet been named. Presidential Personnel Director John DeStefano is temporarily leading the operation.

"Kelly has also raised concerns that the office has become a dumping ground for problematic hires -- or other patronage positions. Omarosa Manigault, a former reality television star and longtime Trump associate who has reportedly made enemies in the

White House with her aggressive style, is the office's communications director." http://politi.co/2y5hz7d

WAPO SCOOP -- "Trump administration working toward renewed drilling in Arctic National Wildlife Refuge," by Juliet Eilperin: "The Trump administration is quietly moving to allow energy exploration in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge for the first time in more than 30 years, according to documents obtained by The Washington Post, with a draft rule that would lay the groundwork for drilling. Congress has sole authority to determine whether oil and gas drilling can take place within the refuge's 19.6 million acres. But seismic studies represent a necessary first step, and Interior Department officials are modifying a 1980s regulation to permit them." http://wapo.st/2fbR1h1

WHAT THE ... -- "Barton voted against Harvey aid. Now he's heading a relief task force," by McClatchy's Andrea Drusch: "Rep. Joe Barton, a Texas Republican who last week voted against a federal aid package for Hurricane Harvey relief, will lead a congressional task force dedicated to recovery efforts.

"Barton is teaming up with Texas Democratic Rep. Henry Cuellar on the panel, which will help coordinate Congress's response to the one of the biggest natural disasters to ever hit the state. Barton, whose district includes parts of Arlington and Fort Worth, was one of four Texas House Republicans who did not support Congress's $15.25 billion in federal relief package last month, because it was tied to an increase in the debt ceiling and a three-month of government funding." http://bit.ly/2jwwfKc

Playbook Reads

PHOTO DU JOUR: Frank Giaccio, 11, of Falls Church, Va., is cheered on by President Donald Trump while he mows the lawn in the Rose Garden of the White House on Sept. 15. The 11-year-old, who wrote the president requesting to mow the lawn, was so focused on the job at hand the he didn't notice the president until he was right next to him. | Jacquelyn Martin/AP Photo

WHAT AMERICA IS READING -- MIAMI HERALD: "After nursing home horror in Hollywood, legislators want new laws" http://bit.ly/2wjwtuf ... **ATLANTA JOURNAL CONSTITUTION:** "Georgia goes all in to woo Amazon" http://bit.ly/2xauneW ... **INDIANAPOLIS STAR:** "Many rush to renew DACA before Trump deadline" http://bit.ly/2falmv6

IMPORTANT ISSUE -- "House moves to block access to congressional records through FOIA," by Josh Gerstein: "The House of Representatives is taking legal action to make sure that federal agencies don't release congressional records to the public through the Freedom of Information Act. The move, which came Friday evening in a

lawsuit demanding access to discussions about health care reform between the Trump administration and Congress, threatens to cut off a mechanism liberal watchdog groups were using to gain insight into closed-door negotiations on a variety of policy issues. In legal papers filed in U.S. District Court in Washington, House General Counsel Thomas Hungar said the move to protect congressional correspondence was authorized by a House body known as the Bipartisan Legal Advisory Group.

"While the panel of top House leaders has divided in the past on sensitive issues, Hungar wrote that they 'voted unanimously to authorize this intervention ... to protect the institutional interests of the House.' Hungar complained that last week [HHS and OMB] gave the liberal group American Oversight four documents that originated with the House Ways and Means Committee. He argued that legal precedents established that congressional documents were exempt from disclosures pursuant to FOIA." http://politi.co/2wiQUY9

BEYOND THE BELTWAY -- "9 officers injured in day of protests downtown and in Central West End, mayor's home damaged," by St. Louis Post-Dispatch: "About 1,000 protesters surrounded the home of St. Louis Mayor Lyda Krewson in the Central West End late Friday, breaking at least two windows and throwing red paint at the brick house before some 200 police in riot gear moved in to break it up. There was no indication on the scene that Krewson was in the home at the time.

"A total of 9 police officers had been reported injured as of 9 p.m., including one officer with a dislocated shoulder and an officer with a possible broken jaw, Acting Police Chief Lawrence O'Toole said shortly after midnight Saturday, appearing with Krewson in a video. A Highway Patrol trooper was also reported injured." http://bit.ly/2x7EVKp

RUSSIA UPDATE -- "Facebook Gave Special Counsel Robert Mueller More Details on Russian Ad Buys Than Congress," by WSJ's Deepa Seetharaman, Byron Tau and Shane Harris: "Facebook Inc. has handed over to special counsel Robert Mueller detailed records about the Russian ad purchases on its platform that go beyond what it shared with Congress last week, according to people familiar with the matter. The information Facebook shared with Mr. Mueller included copies of the ads and details about the accounts that bought them and the targeting criteria they used ... Facebook hasn't shared the same information with Congress in part because of concerns about disrupting the Mueller probe, and possibly running afoul of U.S. privacy laws." http://on.wsj.com/2wwQhW8

COMING ATTRACTIONS -- "Steve Bannon Slated To Speak At Black Entrepreneurs Summit," by HuffPost's Amanda Terkel: "Bannon is listed as a speaker at the economic policy summit for the group Black Americans For A Better Future. The gathering is billed as offering 'a Republican vision for creating opportunities for black entrepreneurs,' according to the invitation. Black Americans For A Better Future is a super PAC that describes itself as a vehicle to 'get more Blacks involved in the Republican Party.'" http://bit.ly/2h9aLyw

KFILE -- "Former Sheriff David Clarke must revise thesis or risk losing degree, docs reveal," by CNN's Chris Massie and Andrew Kaczynski: "The school arrived at its decision after a lengthy investigation triggered by a May CNN KFile report. The story revealed that Clarke's 2013 thesis, entitled 'Making U.S. security and privacy rights compatible,' contained language lifted from numerous sources ... The Naval Postgraduate School's dean of students, Cdr. Paul Rasmussen, wrote in a July letter to Clarke obtained by KFile that he concurred with a finding of an 'Honor Code Board' that the thesis was 'in violation' of the school's honor code.

"The dean wrote that he further determined that Clarke's 'violation was not a result of any intentional deception or misappropriation efforts.' The letter informed Clarke that he had until October 23 -- 100 days -- to submit a revised thesis or NPS would 'initiate degree revocation.'" http://cnn.it/2wwjsc4

--SPOTTED on the noon Amtrak train on Friday from NYC to DC: former Milwaukee County Sheriff David Clarke. Per our tipster: "As the red cap dropped him off on the train in NYC early, the redcap said, 'I know you wanted me to take you away where people didn't see you but this is the best I could do.'" ***Pic*** http://politi.co/2xaz4FB

****** **A message from CTIA and America's wireless industry:** Tomorrow's 5G networks will create 3 million jobs, add $500 billion to the economy, and fuel innovation and entrepreneurialism across every sector. If policymakers move quickly to release more spectrum and modernize infrastructure rules, the wireless industry stands ready to invest $275 billion to build these next-gen networks, according to Accenture. This will drive breakthrough advancements in remote health care, connected vehicles, energy, education and beyond-making our lives better and safer. But the race to deploy 5G wireless networks is underway-and we're at a critical moment. The EU, China, Japan, South Korea and others are doing everything they can to win. If policymakers act now, the U.S. can continue our global leadership in wireless. Learn how at CTIA.org. ******

MEDIAWATCH -- "Head of ESPN alludes to Trump controversy in email to staff," by Jason Schwartz: "ESPN president John Skipper sent an email to all network employees Friday that appeared to address the recent controversy sparked by SportsCenter anchor Jemele Hill's tweet calling President Donald Trump 'a white supremacist.' 'We have programs on which we discuss and even debate sports, as well as the issues that intersect with sports,' he wrote. 'Fans themselves love to debate and discuss sports.'

"'ESPN is not a political organization. Where sports and politics intersect, no one is told what view they must express,' he said, highlighting the network's values, including that 'no one be denigrated for who they are, including their gender, ethnicity, religious beliefs or sexual identity.' ... Without directly rebuking Hill, he reminded employees of the need for restraint in a digital environment. 'Given this reality,' Skipper wrote, 'we have social media policies which require people to understand that social platforms are public and their comments on them will reflect on ESPN. At a minimum, comments

should not be inflammatory or personal." http://politi.co/2w0jBVF

-- "CNN chief Jeff Zucker keeps his network on a breaking news course in the wake of Irma," by L.A. Times' Stephen Battaglio: http://lat.ms/2xpIHkg

-- OUR FRIEND! -- ARIZONA REPUBLIC: "Hadas Gold, a Scottsdale-raised political reporter, joins CNN" http://bit.ly/2f1p47L

#CONCORDIA17: POLITICO is the official media partner of the 2017 Concordia Annual Summit taking place in conjunction with the UN General Assembly in NYC on Sept. 18 and 19. Join us in the Big Apple as we host conversations with world leaders, industry experts, current and former heads of states, C-suite executives, and senior Congressional and Administration officials.

Don't miss POLITICO reporters **Bryan Bender,** defense editor, **Jack Blanchard,** editor of London Playbook, **Helena Bottemiller Evich,** senior food and agriculture reporter, **Michael Crowley**, national security editor, **Susan Glasser,** chief foreign affairs correspondent and Global POLITICO host, **Nick Juliano,** deputy energy editor, **Matt Kaminski,** executive editor, POLITICO Europe, **Anna Palmer,** senior Washington correspondent and co-author of Playbook and **Ben White**, chief economic correspondent. ***Register here:*** http://bit.ly/2wETVit

CLICKER - "The nation's cartoonists on the week in politics," edited by Matt Wuerker -- *14 keepers* http://politi.co/2wvkftH

GREAT WEEKEND READS, curated by Daniel Lippman:

--"The Oldest Restaurant in Kabul: Where Tradition Trumps Rockets," by Maija Liuhto in Longreads: "For over 70 years, Bacha Broot, located in the center of the Old City of Kabul, has been serving chainaki - savory lamb stew - despite Soviet occupation, civil war, and the Taliban." http://bit.ly/2jwOmzM

--"The Remarkable Laziness of Woody Allen," by Christopher Orr in The Atlantic: "Putting next to no effort into his films is the secret to sustaining his reputation." http://theatln.tc/2fpAT8x

--"The Case Against Civilization," by John Lanchester in The New Yorker: "Did our hunter-gatherer ancestors have it better?" http://bit.ly/2ju3kGw

--"In Conversation: John Cleese," by David Marchese in Vulture: "'Jesus is said to have never laughed in the Bible, and I think it's because laughter contains an element of surprise - something about the human condition that you haven't spotted yet - and Jesus was rarely surprised. I still laugh, but many of the things that would have made me laugh 30 years ago - paradoxes about human nature - wouldn't make me laugh any more because I just believe them to be true.'" http://bit.ly/2xEG2UQ (h/t TheBrowser.com)

--**"The Queen of Oversharing,"** by Caitlin Flanagan in The Atlantic: "The personal essay may be over-but Joyce Maynard isn't." http://theatln.tc/2wh4hYT (h/t ALDaily.com)

--**"The Sorrow and the Shame of the Accidental Killer,"** by Alice Gregory in The New Yorker: "How do you live after unintentionally causing a death?" http://bit.ly/2fpdmo4

--**"George Osborne's Revenge,"** by Ed Caesar in Esquire: "George Osborne - abruptly sacked as chancellor of the exchequer by the new Prime Minister, Theresa May, in the wake of Brexit - was appointed editor of the London Evening Standard. Since then, the novice journalist has turned his newspaper into a powerful stick with which to beat May and her government, and told his allies that he wants her 'chopped up in bags in my freezer'. ... [D]oes he still believe that one day, with his Tory foes put to the sword and his Labour opponents dispatched, he might have another shot at Number 10?" http://bit.ly/2x8oSNW

--**"Sheriff Joe,"** by William Finnegan in the July 20, 2009, issue of The New Yorker: "Joe Arpaio is tough on prisoners and undocumented immigrants. What about crime?" http://bit.ly/2gpCF9i

--**"What Led Benjamin Franklin to Live Estranged From His Wife for Nearly Two Decades?"** by Stephen Coss in September's Smithsonian: "A stunning new theory suggests that a debate over the failed treatment of their son's smallpox was the culprit." http://bit.ly/2ycXxIN

-- **"America, Home of the Transactional Marriage,"** by Victor Tan Chen in The Atlantic: "The country's exceptionally thin safety net prompts residents-especially those with less-steady employment-to view partnership in more economic terms." http://theatln.tc/2wtzjcR

--**"American petro-topia,"** by Rebecca Altman in Aeon Magazine: "The genius and hubris of plastic has been absorbed by every living thing. Is it a curse or evolution's next step?" http://bit.ly/2wQdWRW

--**"Your Next New Best Friend Might Be a Robot,"** by Yongdong Wang in Nautilus: "Meet Xiaoice. She's empathic, caring, and always available-just not human." http://bit.ly/2y4of5u

Playbookers

THE BUSH CENTER announced that it will award the inaugural George W. Bush Medal for Distinguished Leadership to Bono for his work to fight global poverty and disease. The Bush Center will give him the medal during the first Forum on Leadership in Dallas

in April.

ENGAGED - Garrett Murch, senior adviser for the office of policy and management for Maine Gov. Paul LePage, on Friday proposed to **Andrea Zuniga,** who represents teachers for the Maine Education Association and is a de Blasio alum. They got engaged in his hometown of Windsor, Maine, before heading up to the Moosehead Lake region to celebrate this weekend. The couple met in Washington when she was a lobbyist for the AFL-CIO and he worked for then-Sen. Jeff Sessions. Zuniga said she knew that Sessions was concerned about H-1B visa abuse so she organized a meeting in the spring of 2015 with his office and several AFL member groups. Sessions' chief counsel on Judiciary, Danielle Cutrona, invited Murch and Stephen Miller to the meeting, and Murch and Zuniga started dating a few months later. ***Pic of the couple (with their puppy)***http://politi.co/2f2i6Q1 ... ***The ring*** http://politi.co/2fpFBTp

BIRTHWEEK (was yesterday): Politico Europe's Hannah Connaghan

BIRTHDAY OF THE DAY: Ben Finzel, president and founder of RENEWPR. **How he got his start in D.C.:** "When I was not at one of my internships, I developed a series of lists of target Congressional offices on a yellow legal pad and I went door to door to House offices introducing myself and leaving my resume with the receptionist. This process yielded an interview and I was hired as press and legislative assistant for Rep. Tim Valentine (D-N.C.) in March of 1990." **Read his Playbook Plus Q&A:** http://politi.co/2jwgS4m

BIRTHDAYS: Politico alum Josh Benson, now with Old Town Media, is 44 ... Jason Zengerle, political correspondent at GQ and contributing writer at NYT Mag ... Josh Ginsberg is 35 ... NBC's Richard Engel is 44 ... Tamron Hall ... Melissa Lafsky Wall ... Cleta Mitchell ... Hogan Gidley ... NWBA's Laurie Knight (hat tip: Rebecca Spicer) ... Luke Hornblower, compliance counsel at MarketCounsel, is 36 (h/t fiancée Sarah Elizabeth Clark) ... Andy Serwer ... Ella Raineri, daughter of Betsy Fischer Martin, is 16 ... Katie Schulz is 16 (h/ts mom Pam Stevens, who notes that Ella and Katie were both born five days after 9/11 with the same doctor and same hospital) ... Carol Kresse ... Michael J. Totten ... Oliver Schwab, chief of staff to Rep. David Schweikert (R-Ariz.) (h/t Kurt Bardella) ... WSJ's Rachel Louise Ensign ... Sandhya Kotha ... Paul Orzulak, founding partner of West Wing Writers, is 51 ... Facebook's Jackie Rooney, a Romney alum (h/t Ryan Williams) ... DNC research director Lauren Dillon ... Jill Lesser (h/ts Jon Haber) ... BuzzFeed's Molly Hensley-Clancy ... Jesse Steinmetz ... Rep. Ralph Abraham (R-La.) is 63 ... Rep. Stephanie Murphy (D-Fla.) is 39 ...

... Julian Castro is 43 ... Rep. Joaquin Castro (D-Tex.) is 43 (h/ts Miguel Solis) ... Louisiana Gov. John Bel Edwards is 51 ... Christine Ciccone ... Lloyd Pierson ... Mark Egan ... Emily Bolton ... Pa. State Rep. Brian Sims ... NPR's Sara Goo ... Johannes Boehm ... Tristan White ... Macey Sevcik ... former Rep. David Rivera (R-Fla.) is 52 ... Jordan Stoick ... Ian Walton ... Jill Lesser ... Chuck Westover ... Ella Raineri ... Katie Schulz ... Suzy Goldenkranz ... Allison Silver ... Evan Carr ... David Lavan ... Scott Spector ... Ed Conlow ... Michael Childers, proud co-owner of Madeline Island Candles

... Liesl Newton ... Dawn Smalls ... Elliot Vice (h/ts Teresa Vilmain) ... Joe Lee ... Vernice Coleman ... John Neurohr ... Katie Kimball ... Joe Lee ... Sheila Weller ... Vernice Coleman ... H.F. Yeomans ... Toru Oga ... Stu Johnson is 58

THE SHOWS, by @MattMackowiak, filing from Los Angeles:

--ABC's "This Week": British Prime Minister Theresa May ... H.R. McMaster ... Rep. Adam Schiff (D-Calif.). Panel: Alex Castellanos, Patrick Gaspard, Jonathan Karl, Alice Stewart and Katrina vanden Heuvel

--CNN's "State of the Union": Ambassador Nikki Haley ... Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.). Panel: Ana Navarro, Rick Santorum, Jennifer Granholm and David Urban (substitute host: CNN's Dana Bash)

--CBS's "Face the Nation": Secretary of State Rex Tillerson ... Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.) ... Ken Burns and Lynn Novick. Panel: Jamelle Bouie, Jeffrey Goldberg, Susan Page and Ramesh Ponnuru

--CNN's "State of the Union": Ambassador Nikki Haley ... Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.). Panel: Ana Navarro, Rick Santorum, Jennifer Granholm and David Urban (substitute host: CNN's Dana Bash)

--NBC's "Meet the Press": Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) ... Sen. Tom Cotton (R-Ark.) ... Michael Bloomberg. Panel: Doris Kearns Goodwin, David Brody, Al Cardenas and author Katy Tur

--"Fox News Sunday": H.R. McMaster ... Senate Minority Whip Dick Durbin (D-Ill.) and Sen. Roy Blunt (R-Mo.). Panel: Newt Gingrich, Julie Pace, Guy Benson and Rachael Bade ... "Power Player of the Week": Washington Redskins and Washington Nationals head physician Dr. Robin West

--Fox News' "Sunday Morning Futures": Rep. Kevin Brady (R-Texas) ... Alberto Gonzales ... Grover Norquist ... Sen. Mike Rounds (R-S.D.). Panel: James Freeman and Steve Forbes

--Fox News' "MediaBuzz": Shannon Pettypiece ... Katie Pavlich ... Joe Trippi ... Jared Max ... Ed Henry ... Gayle Trotter ... Emily Tisch

--CNN's "Inside Politics" with John King: Panel: Julie Hirschfeld Davis, Karoun Demirjian, Nia-Malika Henderson and Eliana Johnson

--CNN's "Reliable Sources": Christine Brennan and Wesley Lowery ... Spencer Ackerman ... Amy Chozick. Panel: Michael Oreskes, Nancy Gibbs and Sarah Westwood.

--Univision's "Al Punto": Pedro Rojas ... Carlos Diaz Rosillo ... Rep. Luis Gutierrez (D-

Ill.) ... Cristina Jiménez and Ezequiel Hernandez ... Maria Antonieta Collins ... Bianca Jagger ... Laurene Powell Jobs

--PBS' "To the Contrary": Rep. Cathy McMorris Rodgers (R-Wash.).

--Washington Times' "Mack on Politics" weekly politics podcast with Matt Mackowiak, download on iTunes, Google Play, or Stitcher or listen at http://bit.ly/2omgw1D: Ken Cuccinelli

****** **A message from CTIA and America's wireless industry:** We need new rules for new 5G networks. New policies that will allow the U.S. to win the race to 5G and enable breakthrough advancements in healthcare, transportation, energy and more. First, a pipeline of low-, mid-, and high-band spectrum will help meet today's mobile needs and enable the 5G networks of tomorrow. Second, every level of government must modernize their rules for the building of small cell wireless infrastructure. Third, permanent and common sense federal regulations for interstate services like mobile broadband will preserve an open internet and protect consumer privacy while promoting innovation and investment. Finally, America's tax structure must be updated to spur billions of dollars in new 5G investment. Learn more about how wireless is working to invest in America's future at CTIA.org. ******

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From: EPA Press Office
Sent: Sat 9/16/2017 11:25:57 AM
Subject: VIDEO: EPA Administrator Pledges Permanent Solution For Dioxin Pits

FOX 26 Houston

EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt Pledges Permanent Solution For Dioxin Pits

Click Here To Watch This Must Watch Video

NOTE: Community activists praised Pruitt's willingness to witness the threat and rapidly respond. "He said he would expedite the decision," said Scott Jones of the Galveston Bay Foundation. "We think that's great. EPA staff has already said removal is the right course." "As long as the waste pits stay in the river, our residents won't feel safe, especially in the storm situations that we have had recently and Administrator Pruitt made it clear, he understands that," said Jackie Young, leader of the Texas Health and Environment Alliance.

FOX 26 - Houston
Greg Groogan
September 15, 2017
http://www.fox26houston.com/news/epa-administrator-pledges-permanent-solution-for-dioxin-pits

Two weeks after Harvey floodwaters rampaged the notorious Dioxin dump known as the San Jacinto River Waste Pits, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Scott Pruitt put his own boots on the ground and his own eyes on the problem, an inspection without precedent.

As dive teams searched for damage and evidence of leaks, EPA Administrator Pruitt spoke exclusively with FOX 26 News.

"When you have a temporary situation like this, when you take rock and put in on top of a site to secure it, you have a big enough storm, something like this, that could cause a disruption of that rock and a release could occur," said Pruitt. "We pray that it didn't happen here. That's what we are testing."

With much of the 17,000 truckloads of cancer-causing waste still submerged beneath the San Jacinto River, images captured by drone in the storm's wake offered evidence that the dump took a pounding.

Clearly troubled by the hurricane exposure, frequent flooding and gaping holes plaguing the Dioxin pits, Pruitt guaranteed quick action, but withheld, for the time, endorsing the EPA staff's recommendation of complete removal.

"Our team at Region 6, the EPA has really each year had to come in here and provide some kind of remedial effort to the site -- that's not good," added Pruitt. "You don't want that and that's absent a hurricane. So as we look to answers here, they need to be permanent, they need to provide

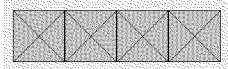
confidence with the people of this area that it's going to be for the long haul and we fix this situation, so that anxiety goes away."

Community activists praised Pruitt's willingness to witness the threat and rapidly respond.

"He said he would expedite the decision," said Scott Jones of the Galveston Bay Foundation. "We think that's great. EPA staff has already said removal is the right course."

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From: Bloomberg BNA
Sent: Fri 9/15/2017 11:54:51 PM
Subject: Sep. 15 -- Energy and Climate Report

Energy and Climate Report

September 15, 2017 - Number 179

News

Air Pollution
EPA Backing for Lax Boiler Rule a 'Black Box,' Judge Says
Federal appeals court judges are putting the EPA in the hot seat, asking the agency to present technical evidence backing its decision to not set lower carbon monoxide emissions limits for large industrial boilers.

Climate Change
Yale's Carbon-Neutral Goals May Be Costly, Leave Students Cold
Cranking up the A.C. or turning on the heat at Yale University could have costly consequences, so students may want to consider wearing an extra layer of clothing to class.

Climate Policy
Airline Climate Emissions Rule Not Dead Yet: EPA
A plan to regulate greenhouse gases from aircraft was put into the EPA's regulatory graveyard but will be re-born again this fall, the agency said.

Coal Mining
Arch, Peabody Coal Mines Need New Climate Analysis, Court Rules
The Bureau of Land Management must revise its analysis of the climate change impacts of extending the life of two Wyoming coal mines, a federal appellate court ruled.

Emissions Trading
California Lawmakers Approve $1.5 Billion to Cut Climate Gases
California businesses, farmers, and consumers eyeing more climate-friendly vehicles and equipment now stand to benefit from new resources approved under the state's greenhouse gas emissions cap-and-trade program.

Emissions Trading
EU Carbon-Permit Cull Can't Be Rushed, German Official Says
A European Union decision on canceling carbon permits in order to reduce a glut needs careful consideration and is unlikely to happen before German elections later this month.

Energy
In a Twist, Texas Wind Power Can Actually Help Gas Generators
A surge of wind power in Texas has made predicting electricity supply more difficult, boosting opportunities for natural gas generators that have been battered by the rise of renewables.

Energy

Millennium Pipeline Gets Federal Nod on New York Water Permit

Millennium Pipeline Co.'s proposed 7.8-mile natural gas pipeline in southeast New York state gained a nudge of support from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, which overruled the state's denial of water permit rights.

Energy

New England Electric Grid Low on Energy, Operator Says

New England may not have enough power in 10 years to keep the region warm and the lights on during cold winter nights, according to the region's electric grid operator.

Enforcement

Brazil's Norte Energia Ordered to Stop Construction of Dam

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Oil & Gas

Perry Highlights Need for Oil Reserve in Rebuke of Trump's Plan

Hurricanes Harvey and Irma demonstrate the importance of keeping the U.S. Strategic Petroleum Reserve, Energy Secretary Rick Perry said, in a not-so-subtle rebuke to President Donald Trump.

Water Pollution

Forget Oil, Water Is New Ticket for Pipeline Growth in Texas

The torrent of dirty water coming out of almost every American oil well is the next big bet for a former fund manager for billionaire Paul Allen.

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Energy and Climate Report

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Subject: Sep. 18 -- Daily Environment Report



Daily Environment Report

September 18, 2017 - Number 179

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Leading the News

Air Pollution

EPA Backing for Lax Boiler Rule a 'Black Box,' Judge Says

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Pesticides

Agreement on Pesticide Registration Bill Remains Elusive

Negotiations to revive a stalled Senate bill extending the authorization for industry-funding of pesticide reviews appear to be languishing as pesticide makers worry about disruptions to the flow of their products to market.

Recycling

Looming Chinese Import Ban Creates U.S. Recycling Bottleneck

It soon could become much harder for recycling centers across the U.S. to turn a profit, and some instead could divert reusable materials to landfills, thanks to a looming Chinese import ban on certain types of recycled materials.

News

Chemicals

Industry to Recycle Ideas for Easing Chemical Reporting Requirements

Companies want to spend less time and money informing the EPA about the chemicals they use and the agency wants to simplify the process.

Climate Change

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Mining
Brazil Court Orders Shutdown of Vale Amazon Nickel Operation
Vale SA was ordered by a Brazilian court to halt activities at the Onca Puma ferronickel operation to investigate whether indigenous groups in the Amazon region were being harmed by the mine, the Public Prosecutor's Office said.

Oil & Gas

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Pesticides

Orkin Canada Fined for Improper Pesticide Use

Pest control firm Orkin Canada Corp. must pay C$150,000 ($123,000) in fines for improperly using and disposing of a pesticide at a Calgary flour mill.

Trains

Union Pacific Wins Round in Train vs. Truck Crash Case

Taylor Truck Line Inc. may not argue to a jury that Union Pacific Railroad Co. was negligent in a railway crossing crash that derailed a train and caused an argon spill, the Western District of Louisiana ruled Sept. 13 (Union Pac. R.R. v. Taylor Truck Line, Inc., 2017 BL 322411, W.D. La., No. 15-cv-0074, 9/13/17).

Water Pollution

Forget Oil, Water Is New Ticket for Pipeline Growth in Texas

The torrent of dirty water coming out of almost every American oil well is the next big bet for a former fund manager for billionaire Paul Allen.

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Daily Environment Report for EPA

To: Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
From: InsideEPA/climate
Sent: Fri 9/15/2017 9:55:19 PM
Subject: Today on Climate Beat

September 15, 2017

Today on Climate Beat . . .

. . . we got efficient, reporting that environmentalists are suing the Department of Energy over its recent delay of portions of an energy efficiency rule that would have blocked the sale of replacement air conditioners that do not meet certain energy-saving requirements.

The Center for American Progress and the Union of Concerned Scientists are asking EPA's Inspector General to investigate Administrator Scott Pruitt's decision to have a political public affairs official review and approve all agency grants, after news reports noted the official was seeking to eliminate grants that address climate change.

In regulation updates, our daily news roundup looked at EPA's plans to formally consider whether to replace the Clean Power Plan after it proposes to rescind the power plant greenhouse gas rule.

In more rule news, environmentalists are raising concern about EPA's apparent move to stop work on a regulation limiting greenhouse gases from new aircraft, saying they filed a Freedom of Information Act request seeking more information on the agency's decision.

And we also highlighted some must-read stories from the past week, including a look at how the past month's devastating hurricanes are affecting climate policy debates, as well as news on vehicle GHG rules, carbon capture technology and novel climate litigation.

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To: Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
From: POLITICO Pro Energy Whiteboard
Sent: Thur 6/1/2017 8:32:47 PM
Subject: Arias Cañete: Trump's announcement 'has galvanized us'

By Kalina Oroschakoff and Sara Stefanini

06/01/2017 04:28 PM EDT

Those that remain part of the Paris climate agreement will be "on the right side of history," Miguel Arias Cañete, the European commissioner for energy and climate action, said today after President Donald Trump announced he will withdraw the U.S. from the deal.

"We all see the Paris agreement as the growth engine of our economies, the key to protect our planet," Arias Cañete said. "Today is a sad day for the global community, as a key partner turns its back on the fight against climate change."

Trump said he will seek to either re-negotiate the Paris accord or agree a new deal. "We will see that we will make a deal that is fair."

Arias Cañete countered that the deal is "fit for purpose" and "allows each party to forge its own path." The treaty is "an unprecedented multilateral partnership between nearly 200 countries."

The EU will strengthen its "existing partnerships and seek new alliances from the world's largest economies to the most vulnerable island states," he added. "Today's announcement has galvanized us rather than weakened us, and this vacuum will be filled by new broad committed leadership."

Former President Barack Obama also criticized Trump's decision, saying he believes the U.S. should be at the front of the pack in tackling climate change.

"The nations that remain in the Paris agreement will be the nations that reap the benefits in jobs and industries created," he said.

It will take four years to exit the Paris agreement.

This article first appeared on POLITICO.EU on June 1, 2017.

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https://www.politicopro.com/energy/whiteboard/2017/06/arias-canete-trumps-announcement-has-galvanized-us-088523

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To: Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
From: EPA Press Office
Sent: Fri 9/15/2017 8:05:00 PM
Subject: EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt Visits Houston To Review Hurricane Harvey Response Efforts

CONTACT: press@epa.gov

EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt Visits Houston To Review Hurricane Harvey Response Efforts

HOUSTON (September 15, 2017) – Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Scott Pruitt visited Houston, Texas, today to review the Agency's response efforts in areas affected by Hurricane Harvey.

"EPA remains committed to providing the necessary resources and personnel to ensure those affected by the devastation of Hurricane Harvey receive proper Agency attention**," said Administrator Pruitt.** "We continue to work closely with our federal, state, and local partners to ensure Superfund are being properly secured, fuel prices remain stabilized, and infrastructure and environmental assessments are thoroughly carried out."

Administrator Pruitt began his visit to Texas by touring the San Jacinto River Waste Pits Superfund site and received a briefing from on-the-ground EPA response personnel. Administrator Pruitt was joined by Acting Regional Administrator for Region 6 Samuel Coleman, Chairman of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) Bryan Shaw, and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) officials.

While Administrator Pruitt toured the site, an EPA dive team was conducting underwater inspections. EPA will continue to keep the public informed as assessments of the site continue and site determinations are made by the dive team.

Following his tour of the San Jacinto Superfund site, Administrator Pruitt received an aerial tour of additional affected Superfund sites in the region by the United States Coast Guard. Sites included: Patrick Bayou, U.S. Oil Recovery, San Jacinto River Waste Pits, Highlands Acid Pits, French Unlimited, Brio Refining, and Dixie Oil Processors.

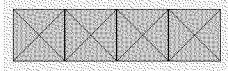
EPA personnel will continue to monitor Superfund sites in Texas affected by Hurricane Harvey, compile data on regulated facilities, sample possible environmental contaminants, and conduct air monitoring of the affected areas.

EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt meets with Acting Regional Administrator for Region 6 Samuel Coleman (right) and other local leaders at the San Jacinto Superfund in Texas.

EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt and Acting Regional Administrator for Region 6 Samuel Coleman speak with Scott Jones of the Galvenston Bay Foundation and Jackie Young of the Texas Health and Environment Coalition.

EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt on a Coast Guard aerial tour of regional Superfund sites.

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Subject: Sep. 15 -- Energy and Climate Report - Afternoon Briefing



Energy and Climate Report

Afternoon Briefing - Your Preview of Today's News

The following news provides a snapshot of what Bloomberg BNA is working on today. Read the full version of all the stories in the final issue, published each night.

Arch, Peabody Coal Mines Need New Climate Analysis, Court Rules

Posted September 15, 2017, 02:22 P.M. ET

By Tripp Baltz

The Bureau of Land Management must revise its analysis of the climate change impacts of four coal leases in Wyoming's Powder River Basin, a federal appellate court ruled today.

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit reversed an earlier court ruling and sided with WildEarth Guardians and the Sierra Club in their challenge of BLM's approval of the leases for four coal tracts. The leases would extend the life of two existing surface mines in northeast Wyoming—Arch Coal's Black Thunder mine and Peabody Energy's North Antelope Rochelle mine.

The two mines account for 19.7 percent of annual U.S. domestic coal production, the court said.

The environmental groups say the BLM failed to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act when it concluded that issuing the leases would not result in higher carbon dioxide emissions in the Powder River Basin. The Sierra Club has received funding from Bloomberg Philanthropies, the charitable organization founded by Michael Bloomberg, the majority owner of Bloomberg L.P., parent of Bloomberg BNA.

The court did not vacate the resulting leases, but remanded the case with instructions to BLM to revise its Environmental Impact Statement and Records of Decision for the lease approvals.

Federal Regulator Overrides New York's Denial of Millennium Pipeline

Posted September 15, 2017, 02:23 P.M. ET

By Rebecca Kern

Millennium Pipeline Co.'s proposed 7.8-mile natural gas pipeline in southeast New York state gained a nudge of support from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, which overruled the state's denial of water permit rights.

FERC issued a waiver Sept. 15 that overrides an Aug. 30 decision from the New York Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) that denied water permit rights for the Valley Lateral

Project in Orange County, N.Y. The federal regulator said in the waiver that the New York department failed to act on a water permit within the one-year statutory deadline under the Clean Water Act.

"It is near certain that the NYSDEC will appeal this waiver decision to the," U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit, analyst James Lucier, a managing director at Capital Alpha, said in Sept. 15 analyst note.

The NYSDEC did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

"This is a positive step forward for what is an important project for New York consumers," Michelle Hook, a Millennium spokeswoman, told Bloomberg BNA.

Millennium now plans to file for a notice to proceed with construction with FERC, Hook said.

The pipeline would supply gas to the CPV Valley Energy Center, a natural-gas electric generation facility under construction in Wawayanda, N.Y., by Competitive Power Ventures Inc.

Brazil's Norte Energia Ordered to Stop Construction of Dam

Posted September 15, 2017, 03:28 P.M. ET

By Michael Kepp

Norte Energia must stop construction of the mammoth Belo Monte Dam until it meets licensing conditions for resettling Amazonians affected by construction of the hydroelectric plant, a federal appeals court ruled.

The government-led consortium of developers failed to comply with licensing conditions for resettling 20,000 families in the nearby city of Altamira, who were displaced by the flooding caused by the dam's upper reservoir, the First Regional Federal Court in Brasilia ruled Sept. 13.

Norte Energia plans to appeal the decision and claims construction can continue.

According to federal prosecutor Felicio Pontes, 3,000 of 6,000 houses that Norte Energia that has built so far do not comply with stipulated licensing conditions, including resettling families less than two kilometers away from their original homes, providing homes based on family size, and building houses with brick.

The ruling from the First Regional Federal Court in Brasilia supported a 2015 lawsuit that Pontes filed in the eastern Amazon state of Para, where the dam is located, asking to suspend the dam's construction license.

The consortium has installed only six of 18 turbines, which account for only one-third of the dam's 11,223-megawatt installed capacity. Turbine installation was expected to be completed by the end of 2019.

The court ruling prevents Norte Energia from installing the rest of its turbines until its construction license conditions have been met, Pontes told Bloomberg BNA.

Norte Energia, which plans to appeal the decision, said in a Sept. 13 statement that because "our

operating license replaces our construction license . . . construction work can continue at Belo Monte."

Norte Energia received its construction license in 2011 and its operating license in 2016 from IBAMA, the licensing arm of the Environment Ministry. But Pontes said due to the two regional court decisions, Norte Energia can neither generate electricity at Belo Monte nor finish installing its turbines, effectively shutting down all dam operations.

The $18.5 billion, 11,233 megawatt Amazon dam would rank third in installed capacity worldwide behind China's 22,000 megawatt Three Gorges Dam and the binational 14,600 megawatt Itaipu Dam on Brazil's border with Paraguay.

Yale's Carbon-Neutral Goals May Be Costly, Leave Students Cold

Posted September 15, 2017, 03:43 P.M. ET

By Victoria Graham

Cranking up the A.C. or turning on the heat at Yale University could have costly consequences, so students may want to consider wearing an extra layer of clothing to class.

Many campus buildings will be limiting their temperatures to 68 degrees in the winter to meet the university's goal to be carbon-neutral by 2050. Failure to cut their carbon emissions could cost some departments money.

Yale is the first university in the world to implement a campuswide carbon control program that carries financial implications.

In an effort to fulfill its mission, the university formally launched its program July 1 to monitor and record the carbon emissions for more than 250 campus buildings. Those that record carbon emissions that are greater than the Yale's historic average will have to pay into a university carbon charge pool. Buildings that come in below the average could see extra money from that pool deposited into their operating budgets.

The New Haven, Conn., university set a $40-a-ton-of-carbon price based on the federal government's estimate of the social cost of the pollutant. This estimates the cost, in dollars, a year in long-term damage done by each ton of carbon dioxide emissions, Casey Pickett, director of Yale's Carbon Charge Project, told Bloomberg BNA in an email.

Susan Wells, director of finance and administration at Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies, told Bloomberg BNA in a phone interview of the potential financial impact for the school.

"It could be a $34,000 charge if we do very poorly and a $34,000 rebate or credit if we do really, really well in comparison to Yale's other units," she said. Of the school's $50 million annual budget, roughly $300,000 goes for operating expenses.

Each Its Own

Departments at Yale, ranging from the law school to athletics, are participating in the carbon charge program. Each manages its own operations and operating budget and is responsible for everything from energy bills to facility wear and tear. Now they will be factoring in their anticipated carbon

emissions when reviewing their finances.

Campus buildings enrolled in the program will receive monthly statements of their carbon dioxide emissions. These will be compared to carbon emissions of Yale's campus as a whole. Departments will be charged for each building it's responsible for if the levels of carbon dioxide emitted is greater than that of the university's.

Not all university buildings are participating in the program's initial rollout due to building size and structure complexities.

"We are not engaging buildings of less than 5,000 square feet this year due to cost/benefit of implementation. And we're not engaging buildings with overly complicated ownership structures because our lack of operation control and, frankly, to whom to send an energy report each presents challenges," said Pickett, who is hopeful to expand to additional buildings in the coming years.

Twice a year, departments will be assessed for their carbon emissions and pay into a pool if their levels are higher than the campus at large. That could amount to thousands of dollars coming from their operating budgets.

If a school receives funding back from the carbon charge pool, the funds can be used at the department's own discretion.

Wells is not optimistic that the School of Forestry and Environmental Sciences will receive a rebate, but if it does she expects it will put the money toward renovating windows in two buildings or give it to the environmental stewardship committee, which works to reduce the school's environmental footprint.

Perry Highlights Need for Oil Reserve in Rebuke of Trump's Plan

Posted September 15, 2017, 11:27 A.M. ET

By Christopher Flavelle

Hurricanes Harvey and Irma demonstrate the importance of keeping the U.S. Strategic Petroleum Reserve, Energy Secretary Rick Perry said, in a not-so-subtle rebuke to President Donald Trump.

"This is a good example of why we need an SPR," Perry said at a press conference Sept. 15. The reserve, run by the federal government, is a stockpile that can hold more than 700 million barrels of crude. Trump's budget proposal this year called for selling half the reserve, saying it was no longer useful in a time of U.S. oil surpluses.

Perry made his disagreement with the president's position clear. "I didn't write that budget," he said at the press conference, held with other federal officials to discuss the state of government assistance to Florida after Hurricane Irma.

After Harvey left refiners in Texas and Louisiana unable to secure crude, Perry's department agreed to deliver 5.3 million barrels from the reserve to them. It was the first such delivery in five years.

"The president brought me in not to agree with him on everything," Perry, the former governor of Texas, said. "He brought me in because of my experience of running the 12th-largest economy in the world for 14 years."

It's appropriate for the government to look at whether the reserve can be run in a "more efficient way," and whether the reserve holds the right amount of oil, Perry said.

"These two storms may change everyone's opinion about," the importance of the SPR, he said. "Our job is to make sure the United States never gets surprised."

—With assistance from Catherine Traywick.

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In a Twist, Texas Wind Power Can Actually Help Gas Generators

Posted September 15, 2017, 03:41 P.M. ET

By Ryan Collins and Emma Ockerman

A surge of wind power in Texas has made predicting electricity supply more difficult, boosting opportunities for natural gas generators that have been battered by the rise of renewables.

Fluctuating renewable supplies can leave grid operators short of power and create price spikes, a phenomenon that's set to worsen as additional wind and solar hit Texas' grid, William Nelson, an analyst at Bloomberg New Energy Finance, said in a report. That could force grid operators to search for last minute more often, and that's where gas plants that can start up quickly step in.

It's a twist for Texas wind developers, which now account for about a fifth of the state's power mix. While the renewable surge has eaten into the profits of gas generators in recent years, it's now presenting the competition with an opportunity.

The volatility is "a silver lining on a sinking boat," said Nelson. "It sends a clear signal that flexibility is king."

Until the cost of storing wind and solar power in batteries comes down, renewables aren't much help to grid managers when the sun doesn't shine and the wind doesn't blow. Even small factors like ice build up on a turbine's blade can affect output, Dan Woodfin, senior director of system operations for the Electric Reliability Council of Texas, said.

The reliability council is planning a second forecasting service to make "on the fly adjustments," and is working toward producing wind forecasts that update on five-minute intervals, Woodfin said.

In the meantime, more volatility means higher profits for gas generators, which can ramp power output up or down regardless of the weather, Nelson said.

Texas wind farms typically slightly underestimate their daily output, Nelson said. That's because if they under-produce in a given hour, they could be charged as much as $9,000 per megawatt hour to backfill the production.

West Texas turbines are 94 percent accurate when predicting day-ahead hourly output, Nelson said. Still, the margin of error can lead to price spikes when demand surges that gas generators can take advantage of.

"Renewables seem to have been a bit of a problem for the margins in the area," Paul Patterson, analyst at Glenrock Associates LLC, said by phone Sept. 15. "You have a new disruptive technology being deployed."

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Forget Oil, Water Is New Ticket for Pipeline Growth in Texas

Posted September 15, 2017, 8:14 A.M. ET

By David Wethe and Ryan Collins

The torrent of dirty water coming out of almost every American oil well is the next big bet for a former fund manager for billionaire Paul Allen.

Getting rid of wastewater from onshore wells has become an increasingly costly problem for oil producers as U.S. crude output surged in recent years, especially in the new shale fields from Texas to North Dakota. Drillers typically get about seven barrels of water for every one of oil, and some struggle to deal with the overflow that is mostly sent by truck to disposal sites miles away.

David Capobianco, a former managing director for Allen's Vulcan Capital, is trying to change that by building pipelines to get wastewater out. His newly formed WaterBridge Resources LLC aims to be a water-management company for oilfields. The firm is considering a public share listing within a year to 18 months, taking advantage of a U.S. shale boom that the government expects will boost crude production close to 10 million barrels a day next year.

"Next to profitability and safety, water may well be the next most important topic for an oil company," said Laura Capper, chief executive officer at EnergyMakers Advisory Group, an industry consultancy in Houston. "It has risen to the forefront over the last five years unlike anything I've ever seen."

To get a sense of just how much water is involved, consider the forecasts for rising oil output in the Permian Basin, the busiest field in Texas and a big beneficiary of increased investment in shale reserves. It currently pumps 2.4 million barrels of oil a day, but production could grow to a peak of as much as 10 million. At the current rate of disposal in the area, that would mean 30 million to 50 million barrels of dirty water every day, enough to fill the Empire State Building eight times a day.

Disposal Cost

Disposal can be expensive, especially with oil prices around $50 a barrel, half the price in 2014. West Texas Intermediate, the U.S. benchmark, was trading down 15 cents at $49.74 a barrel as of 1:19 p.m. Singapore time on Friday.

Most drillers hire oilfield-service companies to get rid of the wastewater. Trucks dump the water into holes dug deep underground that lead to porous formations, thousands of feet below the drinking-water table. In Texas, the service costs about $1.50 to $2.50 a barrel. Capobianco, in an interview, said he can reduce that to roughly $1, once his pipelines are in place.

"We are at a tipping point," where water is set to join oil and natural gas as a key commodity for the industry's pipeline companies, said Capobianco, who is also a former board member for the general partner of Plains All American Pipeline LP. "Water is at a very nascent stage. The market hasn't caught up with the ultimate reality that water will trade the same as any other hydrocarbon."

If Capobianco takes WaterBridge public, the company would be the first devoted entirely to oilfield-water pipelines to be traded on any major U.S. exchange, according to EnergyMakers.

Explorers are starting to face the fact that their water production is becoming too big to truck away.

But only recently have integrated water-solution systems become economically viable for the industry, as activity picked up this year in the Permian's Delaware formation in West Texas, according to Colton Bean, associate of midstream research at Tudor Pickering Holt & Co. in Houston.

One big reason: Roads in the rural basin already are jam-packed with trucks shipping in fresh water, sand and equipment to well heads, and taking oil and dirty water away. "There is not a well-developed road network, so ideally as many trucks you can get off the road the better," Bean said.

Capobianco is chief executive officer for the Houston-based private equity firm Five Point Capital Partners, which funded WaterBridge Resources with $200 million at the start of 2016. Last month, WaterBridge acquired EnWater Solutions LLC for an undisclosed amount, its first acquisition of a water-pipeline company in the Permian Basin. It will be announcing another deal in the next two to four weeks, Capobianco said.

Capper said she's counted roughly 25 companies similar to Capobianco's that are in various stages of development for water pipelines. "It's a market that is developing for very good reason," she said. "It'll be here for the long run."

Wastewater isn't the only goal. After Capobianco builds out a bigger network of disposal pipelines, the next major step will be an integrated system of management that cleans and recycles it for use in future production, he said. In fracking—a technique that helped fuel the U.S. oil boom—water, sand, and chemicals are forced into the ground to loosen oil trapped in layers of shale rock.

The industry's water use isn't without controversy. In Oklahoma, where as many as 20 barrels of water are produced for every barrel of oil, heavy injections of wastewater underground have been blamed for all the earthquakes in the state. Using pipelines might help address that problem, by providing access to areas better suited for disposal.

"We're a whole lot better about producing oil and gas than we used to be," Capper said. "And when you produce more oil and gas, you get more water with it."

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Brazil Court Orders Shutdown of Vale Amazon Nickel Operation

Posted September 15, 2017, 12:43 P.M. ET

By R.T. Watson

Vale SA was ordered by a Brazilian court to halt activities at the Onca Puma ferronickel operation to investigate whether indigenous groups in the Amazon region were being harmed by the mine, the Public Prosecutor's Office said.

In a statement on its website, the prosecutor said the mine in southeastern Para state will remain

shut as long as it's in breach of environmental-license obligations related to the Xikrin and Kayapo indigenous groups.

Vale owes about 50 million reais ($16 million) in compensation to community members after losing an appeal of a previous court order, prosecutors said.

Rio de Janeiro-based Vale confirmed it has stopped activities at the Onca Puma mine, and plans to appeal the decision, according to a statement Sept. 14 from its press office.

Onca Puma was one of the low-performing assets identified by Vale Chief Executive Officer Fabio Schvartsman for review in 2017. While nickel prices have gained 12 percent this year, they are still down about 60 percent from a peak in early 2011.

The effect of mining in the Amazon on indigenous people has been a hot button issue in recent weeks.

Brazil's government spurred an international outcry with its recent announcement it planned to open an area about the size of Denmark inside the Amazon to future mining exploration. President Michel Temer took to Twitter to defend the measure before a court suspended the decision. The government is currently working on an appeal, according to the press department for the country's mining ministry.

Earlier this week, Brazilian authorities confirmed they are investigating the deaths of people who belong to an isolated indigenous tribe in the western reaches of Amazonas state. Illegal wildcat gold miners are alleged to have killed about 10 people, according to media reports. Police and prosecutors are investigating the veracity of the claims while stating that so far no material proof has been found.

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EU Carbon-Permit Cull Can't Be Rushed, German Official Says

Posted September 15, 2017, 11:15 A.M. ET

By Brian Parkin and Mathew Carr

A European Union decision on canceling carbon permits in order to reduce a glut needs careful consideration and is unlikely to happen before German elections later this month.

Withdrawing the emission rights in 2023 instead of 2024 would send a "very important signal to the market," German Deputy Environment Minister Jochen Flasbarth said in an interview in Berlin. "The decision needs to be weighed very carefully."

EU carbon allowances rose to a 20-month high this week as negotiators made progress in talks about a market overhaul, including the timing of when to get rid of excess permits. Efforts to reform the cap-and-trade system have repeatedly failed to increase the penalty for polluting, with emission prices slumping by two-thirds in the past 10 years.

The bloc plans to take some carbon allowances out of circulation and put them in a reserve from about 2019. A sticking point of the plan is when to begin canceling permits removed from the market.

"I don't think it really matters if they're canceled in 2023 or 2024" because allowances in the reserve aren't likely to come out again before 2030, said Jahn Olsen, an analyst Bloomberg New Energy Finance in London. What's more important is when lawmakers seal the political deal to fix the market, he said.

As ministers and members of the European Parliament debate proposals to control the glut, supply is ballooning. Total auction sales this year will amount to a record 951 million metric tons, a third more than last year when the bloc was withholding supply as part of three-year effort to revive the market.

Flasbarth was confident that an effective agreement on market reform can be reached before a United Nations climate conference in November, but there may be delays linked to the complexity of the negotiations and the German election on Sept. 24.

Germany can't make binding commitments until a new government is formed after the election, he said. He didn't say which year he preferred cancellations to start.

More lawmaker talks on the carbon market's proposed fix are set for Oct. 12.

Other measures to deal with the oversupply, including price floors and corridors, are off the table for now, Flasbarth said.

—With assistance from Ewa Krukowska.

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Energy and Climate Report

To: Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
From: Anna Palmer and Jake Sherman
Sent: Thur 6/1/2017 8:21:59 PM
Subject: Playbook Power Briefing, presented by Morgan Stanley: TRUMP EXITS PARIS CLIMATE DEAL -- BUZZ: DINA POWELL for chief of staff? -- POTUS opts to keep U.S. embassy out of Jerusalem, for now -- JAMES COMEY to testify on June 8

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Today's Playbook Power Briefing presented by Morgan Stanley
06/01/2017 04:18 PM EDT

By JAKE SHERMAN (sherman@politico.com; @JakeSherman), ANNA PALMER (anna@politico.com; @apalmerdc), DANIEL LIPPMAN (daniel@politico.com; @dlippman), ZACH MONTELLARO (zmontellaro@politico.com; @ZachMontellaro)

PEACING FROM PARIS ... FOR NOW -- PRESIDENT DONALD J. TRUMP in the Rose Garden on a beautiful day in Washington: "In order to fulfill my solemn duty to protect America and its citizens, the United States will withdraw from the Paris climate accord ... but begin negotiations to re-enter either the Paris accord or really entirely new transaction on terms that are fair to the United States, its businesses, its workers, its people, its taxpayers.

"So we're getting out, but we will start to negotiate and we will see if we can make a deal that's fair. If we can, that's great. If we can't, that's fine. ... As someone who cares deeply about the environment, which I do, I cannot in good conscience support a deal that punishes the United States, which is what it does. The world's leader in environmental protection, while imposing no meaningful obligations on the world's leading polluters. ... This agreement is less about the climate and more about other countries gaining a financial advantage over the United States. ...

"At one percent growth, renewable sources of energy can meet some of our domestic demand. But at three or four percent growth, which I expect, we need all forms of available American energy or our country will be at grave risk of brownouts and blackouts. ... Even if the Paris agreement were implemented in full, with total compliance from all nations, it is estimated it would only produce a two-tenths of one degree -- think of that, this much -- Celsius reduction in global temperature by the year 2100. Tiny, tiny amount. ... The United States under the Trump administration will continue to be the cleanest and most environmentally friendly country on Earth."

TRUMP also said his tax bill is "moving along in Congress and I believe it is doing very well." **NOTE:** Donald Trump's tax bill isn't under consideration in Congress, but his aides have been speaking to tax writers on Capitol Hill about their legislation.

NOTICE HOW OFTEN Trump has been saying recently that the United States will no longer be laughed at.

OBAMA SPEAKS -- "WASHINGTON (AP) - Obama: Trump administration is joining 'small handful of nations that reject the future' with climate pact withdrawal." ***Full statement*** http://bit.ly/2stfcbx

WORD FROM CALIFORNIA -- @ElonMusk: "Am departing presidential councils. Climate change is real. Leaving Paris is not good for America or the world."

THE PRESIDENT also addressed the terrorist attack in Manila -- "It is really very sad as to what's going on throughout the world with terror." ***More from CNN on the attack at a resort in Manila*** http://cnn.it/2rK0WPy

-- WINNERS: Steve Bannon and Scott Pruitt. **LOSERS:** Ivanka Trump and Rex Tillerson. Gary Cohn last week said the president's view was "evolving" on the accord.

HOT DOCS -- ***The White House talking points on Paris*** http://politi.co/2qGqfBI ... ***From the WH rapid response shop: "Praise For President Trump's Paris Decision"*** http://politi.co/2rgEsnL

THE CABLES -- MSNBC had Brian Williams as anchor, with Steve Kornacki, Ali Velshi, Josh Earnest and Nicole Wallace joining him. Kristen Welker and Hallie Jackson reported from the Rose Garden. **CNN** had Jake Tapper anchoring, with Chris Cillizza, Dana Bash, Stephen Moore, Van Jones, Nia-Malika Henderson, Gloria Borger and Fareed Zakaria on a panel. **FOX NEWS** had Shep Smith anchoring with extended conversations with Chris Wallace, WSJ's John Bussey and Bret Baier. John Roberts reported from the White House. Neil Cavuto anchored after the speech.

SPOTTED -- REINCE PRIEBUS wearing a green tie.

THE NEW REALITY -- THE EURO-CHINESE AXIS -- "Juncker: 'A Luxembourger is not afraid of an American,'" by POLITICO Europe's Florian Eder on a plane in Belgian Airspace: "President Donald Trump's 'worrying' moves to 'untie' America from the world make it hard for Europe to stay on good terms with it, and are pushing the EU toward China, European Commission chief Jean-Claude Juncker said Thursday.

"'Now that there are signs that the U.S. wants to untie itself from international connections, the relationship with China is becoming more and more important,' Juncker told POLITICO a day before the main sessions of the EU-China summit. 'I am not very happy with the idea that we might now work even more closely with China than we are able to do with the Americans,' he added in the interview aboard the plane bringing him back to Brussels from Berlin, where he spoke about transatlantic relations and met with German President Frank-Walter Steinmeier. 'This does not fit into my old worldview.'" http://politi.co/2qG1QfK

****** **A message from Morgan Stanley:** Morgan Stanley helped First Solar raise capital to bring clean, renewable energy to new markets worldwide. Capital creates change. Read the full story at morganstanley.com/firstsolar. CRC 1678408 01/17 ******

POLITICO EUROPE'S MATTHEW KARNITSCHNIG -- "Trump makes Europe (feel) great again": "Donald Trump just accomplished the impossible -- a united Europe. The spectacle (and specter) of his chaotic presidency has already given the Continent's establishment a powerful weapon in the battle against populism, helping centrist, pro-EU politicians ride to victory in a string of elections from Austria to France. Trump's decision to ditch the Paris climate deal only cements his reputation in Europe as a danger to the planet, transforming Europe's newfound air of superiority into a full swagger.

"At a time of deep tensions within the bloc over matters large and small, the need to fight climate change is the one issue just about everyone can agree on. Even far-right parties have embraced green themes, recognizing the broad societal consensus." http://politi.co/2rYSVpB

NICK JULIANO -- "What does Trump's Paris climate decision mean?" http://politi.co/2rJUfNj

Happy Thursday afternoon.

WEST-WING BUZZ -- COULD DINA POWELL BE TRUMP'S NEXT CHIEF OF STAFF? Good sources say she is in the mix, as Trump looks to shake things up. She has plenty of D.C. experience and understands the mechanics of governing as well as anyone in this administration.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS -- Former FBI Director **JAMES COMEY** will testify before the Senate Intelligence Committee on June 8, next Thursday. An open session begins at 10 a.m. followed by a closed session at 1 p.m.

STAYING PUT -- "Trump Opts Not to Move Embassy to Jerusalem, at Least for Now," by NYT's Peter Baker: "President Trump signed an order keeping the American Embassy in Tel Aviv rather than move it to Jerusalem as he promised during last year's campaign, aides said Thursday, disappointing many Israel supporters in hopes of preserving his chances of negotiating a peace settlement.

"Mr. Trump made no mention of his pending decision during a visit to Jerusalem just last week and waited to announce it until almost the last minute he could under law, underscoring the deep political sensitivity of the matter. The order he will sign waives for six months a congressional edict requiring the embassy be located in Jerusalem, after which he will have to consider the matter again. The decision is the latest shift away from campaign positions upending traditional foreign policy as Mr. Trump spends more time in office and learns more about the trade-offs involved." http://nyti.ms/2sshDuV

-- @anniekarni: "Campaign promise was to move embassy Day One. Admin says it's not breaking promise, just changing timing. But promise was the timing."

HMM... -- "Tom Price Bought Drug Stocks. Then He Pushed Pharma's Agenda in Australia," by ProPublica's Robert Faturechi: "In the spring before the 2016 presidential election, the Obama administration's 12-nation trade agreement known as the Trans-Pacific Partnership, or TPP, was still alive. Negotiators worked on details as Congress considered whether to ratify the pact. The Australian government was getting in the way of one change demanded by U.S. pharmaceutical companies. Makers of cutting-edge biological drugs wanted to have data from their clinical trials protected from competitors for 12 years, as they are under U.S. law - not the roughly five years permitted under the TPP.

"On April 5, 2016, a bipartisan group of U.S. lawmakers arrived in Canberra, Australia's capital, for meetings with government officials on a broad range of subjects. Among those on the routine congressional trip was Rep. Tom Price, a Georgia Republican who would go on to become President Trump's secretary of health and human services. Three weeks before the trip, Price had purchased up to $90,000 worth of pharmaceutical stocks - trades that would come under scrutiny after his nomination to Trump's cabinet.

"In Canberra, Price and another Republican, Rep. John Kline of Minnesota, pressured senior Australian trade officials to modify their position on the 12-year extension, according to a congressional aide who was on the trip. The Australians explained that they had no intention of changing their laws or rules in ways that could increase drug prices. Price and Kline continued pushing, according to the aide, asking for a side letter or other written guidance that the period would be extended in Australia even if it weren't spelled out in the TPP itself." http://bit.ly/2srK6kJ

DON'T FORGET ABOUT RUSSIA -- "Nunes intervenes in Russia probe, despite having stepped aside," by Austin Wright and Madeline Conway: "Devin Nunes has said he's stepped aside from the House Intelligence Committee's Russia investigation, but he is still involved in a major way.

"As chairman of the intelligence panel, Nunes continues to hold the power to issue subpoenas. And on Wednesday, the California Republican issued three subpoenas without the agreement of the committee's Democrats, and despite having stepped back from the Russia investigation because the House Ethics Committee is investigating him for disclosing classified information. These subpoenas related to the issue of "unmasking," which is a process used by intelligence officials to learn the identities of people inside the United States who are referenced in intelligence reports." http://politi.co/2stfGhU

HADAS GOLD SCOOP -- "White House eyes Bannon ally for top broadcasting post: With sweeping new powers, the position would oversee public media reaching 100 countries": The Trump administration's leading candidate to head the Broadcasting Board of Governors, a position that with recent changes would give the single person unilateral power over the United States' government messaging abroad reaching millions, is a conservative documentarian with ties to White House Chief Strategist

Steve Bannon, according to two people with direct knowledge of the situation.

"Michael Pack, the leading contender for the post, is currently the president and CEO of the Claremont Institute and Publisher of its Claremont Review of Books, a conservative institute based in California which has been called the 'academic home of Trumpism' by the Chronicle of Higher Education." http://politi.co/2rYrwE1

CLICKER -- MATT WUERKER'S May cartoons -- ***14 toons*** http://politi.co/2ru3EHR

BESTSELLERS -- Sen. Elizabeth Warren's book "This Fight Is Our Fight" jumped up from 11th place to 8th place in the New York Times' bestsellers' list this week (http://amzn.to/2srOzE5), while retired Navy Admiral William McRaven's book "Make Your Bed" continues its eight-week reign atop of the advice and how-to list (ttp://amzn.to/2srryAT). ***Full list*** http://politi.co/2sryBd9

BEHIND THE LENS -- "How the New Supreme Court 'Family Photo' Was Taken," by Olivier Laurent in TIME http://ti.me/2ruFMnD

WHAT JAKE IS READING -- TRACKING TRUMP -- "Everywhere Trump Traveled Before Air Force One," by Bloomberg's Vernon Silver, Michael Keller and Dave Merrill: "President Donald Trump finally took his first foreign trip-after waiting longer than any president since Lyndon Johnson-raising an intriguing question about his past: Where did he travel when he was just Private Citizen Trump?" https://bloom.bg/2ruunEl

VID DU JOUR -- Valerie Jarrett talks gun violence, Ivanka Trump's role and more http://bit.ly/2ru88y6

FLAGGING FOR THE WHITE HOUSE -- The USC Center for Public Relations at the Annenberg School this week launched a survey earlier that aims to understand how the Trump White House comms team is impacting the image of PR. They're surveying PR pros in the U.S. with the help of PR Week and the Holmes Report. Among the questions they ask: whether the WH comms team "act like PR professionals," "do their best under the circumstances," "are being treated unfairly by the media," "distort the truth," "purposefully lie," "constantly change views/statements," and "are strategic in their approach."

... The survey also asks respondents to assess "the impact the individual team members' work has on the image of the public relations profession," from "very positive" to "very negative" and asks people to rate the performance of Sean Spicer, Kellyanne Conway, Sarah Huckabee Sanders, Hope Hicks, Michael Dubke, and Dan Scavino and whether they would hire them. *See the survey* http://bit.ly/2rtUzPj

AFTERNOON READ -- "How Paul Newman's Legendary Rolex Cosmograph Daytona Was Found -- and Where It's Going Now," by WSJ's Michael Clerizo: "Over the years, [James Cox] wore the watch that Newman gave him nearly every day without a second thought-until he attended a trade show for TerraPax in the mid-'90s. 'A man

who didn't speak much English tapped me on the shoulder and said: 'Paul Newman watch, Paul Newman watch.' I thought, What the heck? How does this guy know I've got Paul Newman's watch?'" http://on.wsj.com/2rukqGH

FIRST IN PLAYBOOK -- MEDIAWATCH -- CHRIS JANSING is being named senior national correspondent for MSNBC. She joined NBC News in 1998 and has covered five presidential campaigns, eight Olympic games, 9/11, Hurricane Katrina and presidential trips to Cuba, Kenya, India and more for NBC.

TRANSITIONS -- Former Energy Secretary **Ernie Moniz** is the new CEO and co-chairman of the Nuclear Threat initiative ... **John Manning** is the next dean of Harvard Law School, starting on July 1 ... **Dan. K Rosenthal** has been named the new managing principal of Albright Stonebridge Group. He has been with the firm since 2010. His predecessor **Michael J. Warren** is now the firm's managing director. Additionally, **Victoria Nuland** will join the firm's Europe practice in September as senior counselor http://politi.co/2srS9xV ... **Armstrong Robinson** has joined AALU has their vice president of legislative affairs. He was previously a director at Prime Policy Group.

BONUS BIRTHDAYS -- The commonwealth of Kentucky is 225 (http://bit.ly/2srUrNC) ... White House comms aide Tyler Ross (hat tip: Raj Shah) ... Debtwire reporter Bill Weisbrod ... **(was yesterday):** CNN senior congressional producer -- a TRUE all star -- Deirdre Walsh (h/t Tal Kopan).

****** **A message from Morgan Stanley:** Capital creates light in new places. Nearly a decade ago, First Solar had a bold idea: make solar power an affordable alternative to conventional energy. Since then, Morgan Stanley has helped First Solar raise capital to expand into new markets. Now, regions from the Atacama Desert in Chile to rural India have access to clean, renewable energy. With our help, First Solar is enabling a world powered by reliable and affordable solar electricity. Global business-it's something to see. morganstanley.com/firstsolar

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CRC 1526781 06/16 ******

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Daily Environment Report

Afternoon Briefing - Your Preview of Today's News

The following news provides a snapshot of what Bloomberg BNA is working on today. Read the full version of all the stories in the final issue, published each night. The Bloomberg BNA Daily Environment Report is brought to you by EPA Libraries. Please note, these materials may be copyrighted and should not be forwarded outside of the U.S. EPA. If you have any questions or no longer wish to receive these messages, please contact Josue Rivera-Olds at rivera-olds.josue@epa.gov, 202-566-1558.

Looming Chinese Import Ban Creates U.S. Recycling Bottleneck

Posted September 15, 2017, 6:30 A.M. ET

By Adam Allington

It soon could become much harder for recycling centers across the U.S. to turn a profit, and some instead could divert reusable materials to landfills, thanks to a looming Chinese import ban on certain types of recycled materials.

China is by far the biggest importer of U.S. recyclables, but part of that market is about to close: The Chinese Ministry of Environmental Protection (MEP) notified the World Trade Organization in July that it would ban imports of certain types of recycled plastic and fiber, including soda bottles, mixed paper and newsprint.

The announcement bans imports of 24 types of recycled materials including various plastics (PET, PE, PVC and PS), as well as unsorted mixed paper, textiles, and some trace metals. And according to Beijing, starting in January every waste container entering China is to be inspected for contaminated materials.

The news has immediate implications for the domestic recycling supply chain in the U.S., stretching all the way back to the curbside recycling programs that have become popular in cities and towns.

"It could have a negative impact on recycling in general, as the system has relied on China for so long now," said Brent Bell, vice president of recycling for Waste Management, the largest waste-service provider in the U.S. If the Chinese market is no-longer available, some experts question whether U.S. municipal recycling programs can remain viable, or if many of the products now considered "recyclable" will be reclassified as garbage bound for landfills. Other experts, however, say only a short-term disruption is likely.

The Trump administration has pledged to raise concerns with China's government about the import restrictions, Adina Adler, senior director of international relations at the Institute for Scrap Recycling Industries (ISRI), told Bloomberg BNA.

Adler described the potential engagement as "still evolving," with the hope that China will be open to other methods of meeting its goals to protect the environment.

End of Single-Stream Recycling?

The WTO filing mentions an "entry into force" starting in September, with the full ban likely taking place by the end of the year. In practice, this has given the U.S. industry very little time to adapt, with significant implications being been felt up and down the supply chain for recycled materials.

"There's already been a lack of renewals in export licensing," said Marc Forman, president of GP Harmon Recycling, a division of Georgia-Pacific that purchases and sells recycled fiber. "There is lots of uncertainty out there. If you have a contract to export a million pounds of paper this year, and you know it could be 500,000 next year, you're already having to make tough decisions."

Scrap industry groups claim that China's new import quality standards are strict to the point of being essentially unworkable for products such as mixed paper, and polyethylene terephthalate (PET) plastic bottles, both of which are big components of curbside recycling streams.

Chinese rules now state that mixed-paper bales may contain no more than 2 percent of non-recyclable material. But the new standard will drop that limit to 0.3 percent.

"That will cause the mixed-paper market to crash," said Bill Moore of Moore & Associates, a consultancy for the paper industry.

The largest source of mixed-paper is residentially collected recycling. If those materials aren't being exported to China, waste collectors worry the U.S. may soon have paper and plastic piling up around the country.

Tough Choices

Without viable markets, recycling centers will be faced with hard choices. They could raise prices to pay for additional labor and sorting equipment. They could require households to sort their own recycling. Or, they could simply send unprofitable materials to the landfill.

"We don't think that's something that anyone, including consumers who are dedicated to the practice of recycling, wants to see, us included," Bell told Bloomberg BNA. The values of plastic, paper, and aluminum have been trending downward for years, prompting many recycling centers to close and putting pressure on the remaining centers to process more waste, with decreasing funds.

In California, a state that prides itself as a leader in protecting the environment, recycling rates for beverage containers have dropped to their lowest point in almost a decade, according to data from the California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle).

State figures show more than 500 recycling centers have closed in the past two years, resulting in millions of pounds of plastic, aluminum and glass containers going to landfills.

Once-Booming Market

Every day roughly 3,700 shipping containers full of recyclables are trucked to U.S. ports, loaded onto ships and sent to China. The items in those containers include plastics, metal, paper,

cardboard, and textiles, which Chinese manufacturers use as raw materials.

Recyclables are among the largest exported materials by volume to China, according to the Department of Commerce.

The U.S last year exported more than 37 million metric tons of scrap commodities valued at $16.5 billion to 155 countries, said Adler of the Institute for Scrap Recycling Industries. China accounted for almost one-third of that total—about $5.2 billion.

By comparison, the top two export categories to China in 2016 were miscellaneous grain, seeds, and soybeans ($15 billion) and aircraft ($15 billion).

For decades, the market for recycling exports has benefited thanks to the massive U.S.-China trade deficit. With more container ships arriving on U.S. shores then heading the other way, shippers were desperate for anything they could find for the return trip.

"And the thing they chose was scrap materials," Moore told Bloomberg BNA. "Because of discounts the shipping companies offered, it ended up being cheaper to send that stuff to China than to process it here."

For years that arrangement formed the basis of a circular economy in which the U.S.—as well as the EU and other countries—would all ship waste recycling to China, only to have it eventually returned in the form of cheap and affordable finished goods. Over time, however, it also saddled China with the unpleasant reputation as "the world's garbage dump."

Green Fence 2.0

In its WTO filing, the Chinese MEP cited past efforts to clamp down on the quality of recycled imports. Through those measures, "we found that large amounts of dirty wastes or even hazardous wastes are mixed in the solid waste that can be used as raw materials," the filing stated.

"To protect China's environmental interests and people's health," the filing continued, "we urgently adjust the imported solid wastes list, and forbid the import of solid wastes that are highly polluted."

China's newly announced position on recycling imports actually goes back to 2013, and a government plan called "Operation Green Fence." The plan called for a 10-month customs enforcement blitz to weed out imports of unwashed or contaminated scrap materials coming in to China.

While Green Fence may have been successful at cleaning up China's import stream in the short term, trade experts say the impacts were only temporary.

Despite further efforts at enforcement and regulatory tweaks, the biggest factor in pushing through the current ban may have actually been Wang Jiuliang's 2016 documentary "Plastic China." A viral hit across the country, the film focused on China's mostly unregulated garbage and recycling dumps.

In addition to raising awareness about a real pollution problem, the film also galvanized public opinion at the same moment that the Communist Party, lead by Xi Jinping, was promising renewed efforts to clean up China's environment, whatever the cost.

Complex Environmental Impacts

As dirty as the market for exported waste can be, it was also a key factor in creating the economic conditions that fueled China's manufacturing boom.

It was a system that for more than 30 years allowed the Chinese manufacturing economy to grow by leaps and bounds, without having to invest in its own domestic production capacity for raw materials such as cardboard, plastic, and some metals.

"You could really correlate the growth in the scrap market with economic growth," said Adam Minter, author of "Junkyard Planet," a 2013 book on the global trash trade, and a Bloomberg View columnist.

While Minter agrees that no one should fault China for taking steps to clean up its imports, he also points to potential environmental impacts resulting from tougher import restrictions.

"The worst recycling center is still far better than the best open pit mine," said Minter. "China needs raw materials and recycling is the feedstock. So if they're not getting that feedstock from secondary sources, that means drilling more oil wells and cutting down more trees."

Minter also points out that the rules do not amount to a complete ban on scrap exports to China. Likewise, the U.S. still has ready buyers in other countries, such as Canada.

Short-Term Disruption?

Others view the environmental impacts of China's decision as more of a short-term disruption than a fundamental shift in the U.S. recycling economy.

"I don't see the stuff on someone's curb ending up in the trash. There is a home for this recycling somewhere," said Dylan de Thomas, vice president of industry collaboration for The Recycling Partnership, a national recycling nonprofit that receives funding from Coke, Pepsi, and Target.

De Thomas said the recycling market won't collapse as there's simply too much interest in recycling, from both the general public and companies.

"The really large waste and recycling companies have a vested interest in the recycled fiber and plastic markets," he said.

De Thomas points to e-commerce giants such Amazon, with its demand for cardboard and plastic packaging, as one place that may be able to swallow up more domestic recycling capacity.

"If you bale it [recycled paper, plastic, metal], they will come," said de Thomas. "This recycling will ultimately find a home in new products, as long as there is demand for those products."

Yale's Carbon-Neutral Goals May Be Costly, Leave Students Cold

Posted September 15, 2017, 03:43 P.M. ET

By Victoria Graham

Cranking up the A.C. or turning on the heat at Yale University could have costly consequences, so

students may want to consider wearing an extra layer of clothing to class.

Many campus buildings will be limiting their temperatures to 68 degrees in the winter to meet the university's goal to be carbon-neutral by 2050. Failure to cut their carbon emissions could cost some departments money.

Yale is the first university in the world to implement a campuswide carbon control program that carries financial implications.

In an effort to fulfill its mission, the university formally launched its program July 1 to monitor and record the carbon emissions for more than 250 campus buildings. Those that record carbon emissions that are greater than the Yale's historic average will have to pay into a university carbon charge pool. Buildings that come in below the average could see extra money from that pool deposited into their operating budgets.

The New Haven, Conn., university set a $40-a-ton-of-carbon price based on the federal government's estimate of the social cost of the pollutant. This estimates the cost, in dollars, a year in long-term damage done by each ton of carbon dioxide emissions, Casey Pickett, director of Yale's Carbon Charge Project, told Bloomberg BNA in an email.

Susan Wells, director of finance and administration at Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies, told Bloomberg BNA in a phone interview of the potential financial impact for the school.

"It could be a $34,000 charge if we do very poorly and a $34,000 rebate or credit if we do really, really well in comparison to Yale's other units," she said. Of the school's $50 million annual budget, roughly $300,000 goes for operating expenses.

Each Its Own

Departments at Yale, ranging from the law school to athletics, are participating in the carbon charge program. Each manages its own operations and operating budget and is responsible for everything from energy bills to facility wear and tear. Now they will be factoring in their anticipated carbon emissions when reviewing their finances.

Campus buildings enrolled in the program will receive monthly statements of their carbon dioxide emissions. These will be compared to carbon emissions of Yale's campus as a whole. Departments will be charged for each building it's responsible for if the levels of carbon dioxide emitted is greater than that of the university's.

Not all university buildings are participating in the program's initial rollout due to building size and structure complexities.

"We are not engaging buildings of less than 5,000 square feet this year due to cost/benefit of implementation. And we're not engaging buildings with overly complicated ownership structures because our lack of operation control and, frankly, to whom to send an energy report each presents challenges," said Pickett, who is hopeful to expand to additional buildings in the coming years.

Twice a year, departments will be assessed for their carbon emissions and pay into a pool if their levels are higher than the campus at large. That could amount to thousands of dollars coming from their operating budgets.

If a school receives funding back from the carbon charge pool, the funds can be used at the department's own discretion.

Wells is not optimistic that the School of Forestry and Environmental Sciences will receive a rebate, but if it does she expects it will put the money toward renovating windows in two buildings or give it to the environmental stewardship committee, which works to reduce the school's environmental footprint.

Arch, Peabody Coal Mines Need New Climate Analysis, Court Rules

Posted September 15, 2017, 02:22 P.M. ET

By Tripp Baltz

The Bureau of Land Management must revise its analysis of the climate change impacts of four coal leases in Wyoming's Powder River Basin, a federal appellate court ruled today.

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit reversed an earlier court ruling and sided with WildEarth Guardians and the Sierra Club in their challenge of BLM's approval of the leases for four coal tracts. The leases would extend the life of two existing surface mines in northeast Wyoming—Arch Coal's Black Thunder mine and Peabody Energy's North Antelope Rochelle mine.

The two mines account for 19.7 percent of annual U.S. domestic coal production, the court said.

The environmental groups say the BLM failed to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act when it concluded that issuing the leases would not result in higher carbon dioxide emissions in the Powder River Basin. The Sierra Club has received funding from Bloomberg Philanthropies, the charitable organization founded by Michael Bloomberg, the majority owner of Bloomberg L.P., parent of Bloomberg BNA.

The court did not vacate the resulting leases, but remanded the case with instructions to BLM to revise its Environmental Impact Statement and Records of Decision for the lease approvals.

Agreement on Pesticide Registration Bill Remains Elusive

Posted September 15, 2017, 7:30 A.M. ET

By Tiffany Stecker

Negotiations to revive a stalled Senate bill extending the authorization for industry-funding of pesticide reviews appear to be languishing as pesticide makers worry about disruptions to the flow of their products to market.

Democratic Sen. Tom Udall (N.M.) in July placed a hold on the measure (H.R. 1029) in response to fellow Democrats' and environmentalists' concerns about the Environmental Protection Agency's decision under Administrator Scott Pruitt not to ban a major pesticide that may affect child development and to delay two farm worker protection rules.

The current 2003 authorization for the program, set to expire Sept. 30, has been extended through Dec. 8 under an unrelated legislative package President Donald Trump signed this month to provide aid to hurricane victims, raise the debt ceiling, and provide short-term spending to avoid a

government shutdown.

So far, discussions to advance the Pesticide Registration Improvement Extension Act of 2017—which also authorizes EPA to collect fees from pesticide makers to speed registration of their products and to evaluate their safety—appear to be treading water.

Although staff in Udall's office are meeting with the Senate Agriculture Committee, the industry's top trade association pushing for the legislation told Bloomberg BNA that there isn't much room for negotiation to appease Udall's concerns. The EPA's recent decisions on pesticides, an industry lobbyist said, cannot be resolved in that bill.

Impasse Crops Up

"We've found ourselves at an impasse, and that's unfortunate," Beau Greenwood, executive vice president of government affairs for CropLife America told Bloomberg BNA. "The only thing we have to negotiate with respect to PRIA is time and money… we've made those concessions."

Greenwood is a member of the PRIA Coalition, an unusual mix of industry representatives and environmental advocates pushing for the bill's passage. Lawmakers in June agreed to shorten the duration of the authorization period from seven to three years to quell concerns from farm worker organizations who objected to continuing funding for the EPA's pesticide office if it delays rules to protect agricultural laborers.

The bill would increase the amount of licensing fee revenue the agency could generate by almost 12 percent . The licensing fees fund between 20 percent and 40 percent of the Office of Pesticide Programs' budget. The bill also would set aside up to $1 million for farm worker safety training. The authorization levels have not been part of the negotiations.

Industry groups and lawmakers say Udall's hold on the bill could stall hundreds of necessary actions at the EPA to put pesticides on the market for farmers, including safety reviews to minimize the products' risks to humans and the environment.

Senate Agriculture Committee Ranking Member Debbie Stabenow (D-Mich.) told Bloomberg BNA that she is eager to pass the bill. Speaking to Udall is "on my list of things to do," she said.

Udall's spokeswoman told Bloomberg BNA that Udall will allow the bill to proceed when he is assured that EPA will implement pesticide law "in a manner that protects worker safety and the public."

"To date, the Pruitt EPA has had a poor track record on pesticide safety and has threatened to roll back worker protections," spokeswoman Jennifer Talhelm said in an email that highlighted a recent EPA decision on a major pesticide widely used on vegetables called chlorpyrifos.

"If the Senate Agriculture Committee and EPA can assure Senator Udall that important worker protections will remain in place and that a reasonable path forward is being pursued on chlorpyrifos, he could release the hold."

EPA's Decisions Stall Bill

The EPA in March rejected a petition to prohibit nearly all uses of the pesticide chlorpyrifos, a chemical made by Dow Chemical that has been linked to neurodevelopmental delays in children

exposed in utero. The agency earlier this year also postponed the implementation of two final rules to set a minimum age of 18 for spraying pesticides and to improve training for workers.

Udall, along with Democratic Sens. Ben Cardin (Md.), Richard Blumenthal (Conn.), and Cory Booker (N.J.), sent the Agriculture Committee a letter in July in which they proposed PRIA as an opportunity to discuss those decisions.

Farmworker Justice is a member of the PRIA Coalition. Virginia Ruiz, the organization's director of occupational and environmental health, said she supports the intention behind Udall's hold, but that the organization was satisfied with the compromise to shorten the reauthorization to three years.

If the EPA continues to make decisions that put farmworkers at risk of unsafe pesticide exposure in the next three years, "at that point we will revisit our support for PRIA," Ruiz told Bloomberg BNA.

Brazil's Norte Energia Ordered to Stop Construction of Dam

Posted September 15, 2017, 03:28 P.M. ET

By Michael Kepp

Norte Energia must stop construction of the mammoth Belo Monte Dam until it meets licensing conditions for resettling Amazonians affected by construction of the hydroelectric plant, a federal appeals court ruled.

The government-led consortium of developers failed to comply with licensing conditions for resettling 20,000 families in the nearby city of Altamira, who were displaced by the flooding caused by the dam's upper reservoir, the First Regional Federal Court in Brasilia ruled Sept. 13.

Norte Energia plans to appeal the decision and claims construction can continue.

According to federal prosecutor Felicio Pontes, 3,000 of 6,000 houses that Norte Energia that has built so far do not comply with stipulated licensing conditions, including resettling families less than two kilometers away from their original homes, providing homes based on family size, and building houses with brick.

The ruling from the First Regional Federal Court in Brasilia supported a 2015 lawsuit that Pontes filed in the eastern Amazon state of Para, where the dam is located, asking to suspend the dam's construction license.

The consortium has installed only six of 18 turbines, which account for only one-third of the dam's 11,223-megawatt installed capacity. Turbine installation was expected to be completed by the end of 2019.

The court ruling prevents Norte Energia from installing the rest of its turbines until its construction license conditions have been met, Pontes told Bloomberg BNA.

Norte Energia, which plans to appeal the decision, said in a Sept. 13 statement that because "our operating license replaces our construction license . . . construction work can continue at Belo Monte."

Norte Energia received its construction license in 2011 and its operating license in 2016 from

IBAMA, the licensing arm of the Environment Ministry. But Pontes said due to the two regional court decisions, Norte Energia can neither generate electricity at Belo Monte nor finish installing its turbines, effectively shutting down all dam operations.

The $18.5 billion, 11,233 megawatt Amazon dam would rank third in installed capacity worldwide behind China's 22,000 megawatt Three Gorges Dam and the binational 14,600 megawatt Itaipu Dam on Brazil's border with Paraguay.

Federal Regulator Overrides New York's Denial of Millennium Pipeline

Posted September 15, 2017, 02:23 P.M. ET

By Rebecca Kern

Millennium Pipeline Co.'s proposed 7.8-mile natural gas pipeline in southeast New York state gained a nudge of support from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, which overruled the state's denial of water permit rights.

FERC issued a waiver Sept. 15 that overrides an Aug. 30 decision from the New York Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) that denied water permit rights for the Valley Lateral Project in Orange County, N.Y. The federal regulator said in the waiver that the New York department failed to act on a water permit within the one-year statutory deadline under the Clean Water Act.

"It is near certain that the NYSDEC will appeal this waiver decision to the," U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit, analyst James Lucier, a managing director at Capital Alpha, said in Sept. 15 analyst note.

The NYSDEC did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

"This is a positive step forward for what is an important project for New York consumers," Michelle Hook, a Millennium spokeswoman, told Bloomberg BNA.

Millennium now plans to file for a notice to proceed with construction with FERC, Hook said.

The pipeline would supply gas to the CPV Valley Energy Center, a natural-gas electric generation facility under construction in Wawayanda, N.Y., by Competitive Power Ventures Inc.

Weak EPA Boiler Air Pollution Rule Draws Judges' Scrutiny

Posted September 15, 2017, 02:17 P.M. ET

By Abby Smith

Federal appeals court judges are putting the EPA in the hot seat, asking the agency to present technical evidence backing its decision to not set lower carbon monoxide emissions limits for large industrial boilers.

Environmental groups say the carbon monoxide limits—which are intended to reduce toxic pollutants such as formaldehyde—are insufficient to protect health and are inconsistent with the Clean Air Act.

Judges on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit appeared unable to reconcile the emissions limits set by the EPA with the data the agency presented to justify its decision.

Judge Nina Pillard told Justice Department attorney Norman Rave that there seems to be a "data blip." Rave responded that the EPA determined there was no proven emissions reduction benefit in setting a lower standard, but Pillard and the other judges appeared unconvinced.

"This black box needs an explanation," Pillard said.

Brazil Court Orders Shutdown of Vale Amazon Nickel Operation

Posted September 15, 2017, 12:43 P.M. ET

By R.T. Watson

Vale SA was ordered by a Brazilian court to halt activities at the Onca Puma ferronickel operation to investigate whether indigenous groups in the Amazon region were being harmed by the mine, the Public Prosecutor's Office said.

In a statement on its website, the prosecutor said the mine in southeastern Para state will remain shut as long as it's in breach of environmental-license obligations related to the Xikrin and Kayapo indigenous groups.

Vale owes about 50 million reais ($16 million) in compensation to community members after losing an appeal of a previous court order, prosecutors said.

Rio de Janeiro-based Vale confirmed it has stopped activities at the Onca Puma mine, and plans to appeal the decision, according to a statement Sept. 14 from its press office.

Onca Puma was one of the low-performing assets identified by Vale Chief Executive Officer Fabio Schvartsman for review in 2017. While nickel prices have gained 12 percent this year, they are still down about 60 percent from a peak in early 2011.

The effect of mining in the Amazon on indigenous people has been a hot button issue in recent weeks.

Brazil's government spurred an international outcry with its recent announcement it planned to open an area about the size of Denmark inside the Amazon to future mining exploration. President Michel Temer took to Twitter to defend the measure before a court suspended the decision. The government is currently working on an appeal, according to the press department for the country's mining ministry.

Earlier this week, Brazilian authorities confirmed they are investigating the deaths of people who belong to an isolated indigenous tribe in the western reaches of Amazonas state. Illegal wildcat gold miners are alleged to have killed about 10 people, according to media reports. Police and prosecutors are investigating the veracity of the claims while stating that so far no material proof has been found.

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Perry Highlights Need for Oil Reserve in Rebuke of Trump's Plan

Posted September 15, 2017, 11:27 A.M. ET

By Christopher Flavelle

Hurricanes Harvey and Irma demonstrate the importance of keeping the U.S. Strategic Petroleum Reserve, Energy Secretary Rick Perry said, in a not-so-subtle rebuke to President Donald Trump.

"This is a good example of why we need an SPR," Perry said at a press conference Sept. 15. The reserve, run by the federal government, is a stockpile that can hold more than 700 million barrels of crude. Trump's budget proposal this year called for selling half the reserve, saying it was no longer useful in a time of U.S. oil surpluses.

Perry made his disagreement with the president's position clear. "I didn't write that budget," he said at the press conference, held with other federal officials to discuss the state of government assistance to Florida after Hurricane Irma.

After Harvey left refiners in Texas and Louisiana unable to secure crude, Perry's department agreed to deliver 5.3 million barrels from the reserve to them. It was the first such delivery in five years.

"The president brought me in not to agree with him on everything," Perry, the former governor of Texas, said. "He brought me in because of my experience of running the 12th-largest economy in the world for 14 years."

It's appropriate for the government to look at whether the reserve can be run in a "more efficient way," and whether the reserve holds the right amount of oil, Perry said.

"These two storms may change everyone's opinion about," the importance of the SPR, he said. "Our job is to make sure the United States never gets surprised."

—With assistance from Catherine Traywick.

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Forget Oil, Water Is New Ticket for Pipeline Growth in Texas

Posted September 15, 2017, 8:14 A.M. ET

By David Wethe and Ryan Collins

The torrent of dirty water coming out of almost every American oil well is the next big bet for a former fund manager for billionaire Paul Allen.

Getting rid of wastewater from onshore wells has become an increasingly costly problem for oil producers as U.S. crude output surged in recent years, especially in the new shale fields from Texas to North Dakota. Drillers typically get about seven barrels of water for every one of oil, and some struggle to deal with the overflow that is mostly sent by truck to disposal sites miles away.

David Capobianco, a former managing director for Allen's Vulcan Capital, is trying to change that by

building pipelines to get wastewater out. His newly formed WaterBridge Resources LLC aims to be a water-management company for oilfields. The firm is considering a public share listing within a year to 18 months, taking advantage of a U.S. shale boom that the government expects will boost crude production close to 10 million barrels a day next year.

"Next to profitability and safety, water may well be the next most important topic for an oil company," said Laura Capper, chief executive officer at EnergyMakers Advisory Group, an industry consultancy in Houston. "It has risen to the forefront over the last five years unlike anything I've ever seen."

To get a sense of just how much water is involved, consider the forecasts for rising oil output in the Permian Basin, the busiest field in Texas and a big beneficiary of increased investment in shale reserves. It currently pumps 2.4 million barrels of oil a day, but production could grow to a peak of as much as 10 million. At the current rate of disposal in the area, that would mean 30 million to 50 million barrels of dirty water every day, enough to fill the Empire State Building eight times a day.

Disposal Cost

Disposal can be expensive, especially with oil prices around $50 a barrel, half the price in 2014. West Texas Intermediate, the U.S. benchmark, was trading down 15 cents at $49.74 a barrel as of 1:19 p.m. Singapore time on Friday.

Most drillers hire oilfield-service companies to get rid of the wastewater. Trucks dump the water into holes dug deep underground that lead to porous formations, thousands of feet below the drinking-water table. In Texas, the service costs about $1.50 to $2.50 a barrel. Capobianco, in an interview, said he can reduce that to roughly $1, once his pipelines are in place.

"We are at a tipping point," where water is set to join oil and natural gas as a key commodity for the industry's pipeline companies, said Capobianco, who is also a former board member for the general partner of Plains All American Pipeline LP. "Water is at a very nascent stage. The market hasn't caught up with the ultimate reality that water will trade the same as any other hydrocarbon."

If Capobianco takes WaterBridge public, the company would be the first devoted entirely to oilfield-water pipelines to be traded on any major U.S. exchange, according to EnergyMakers.

Explorers are starting to face the fact that their water production is becoming too big to truck away.

But only recently have integrated water-solution systems become economically viable for the industry, as activity picked up this year in the Permian's Delaware formation in West Texas, according to Colton Bean, associate of midstream research at Tudor Pickering Holt & Co. in Houston.

One big reason: Roads in the rural basin already are jam-packed with trucks shipping in fresh water, sand and equipment to well heads, and taking oil and dirty water away. "There is not a well-developed road network, so ideally as many trucks you can get off the road the better," Bean said.

Capobianco is chief executive officer for the Houston-based private equity firm Five Point Capital Partners, which funded WaterBridge Resources with $200 million at the start of 2016. Last month, WaterBridge acquired EnWater Solutions LLC for an undisclosed amount, its first acquisition of a water-pipeline company in the Permian Basin. It will be announcing another deal in the next two to four weeks, Capobianco said.

Capper said she's counted roughly 25 companies similar to Capobianco's that are in various stages of development for water pipelines. "It's a market that is developing for very good reason," she said. "It'll be here for the long run."

Wastewater isn't the only goal. After Capobianco builds out a bigger network of disposal pipelines, the next major step will be an integrated system of management that cleans and recycles it for use in future production, he said. In fracking—a technique that helped fuel the U.S. oil boom—water, sand, and chemicals are forced into the ground to loosen oil trapped in layers of shale rock.

The industry's water use isn't without controversy. In Oklahoma, where as many as 20 barrels of water are produced for every barrel of oil, heavy injections of wastewater underground have been blamed for all the earthquakes in the state. Using pipelines might help address that problem, by providing access to areas better suited for disposal.

"We're a whole lot better about producing oil and gas than we used to be," Capper said. "And when you produce more oil and gas, you get more water with it."

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In a Twist, Texas Wind Power Can Actually Help Gas Generators

Posted September 15, 2017, 03:41 P.M. ET

By Ryan Collins and Emma Ockerman

A surge of wind power in Texas has made predicting electricity supply more difficult, boosting opportunities for natural gas generators that have been battered by the rise of renewables.

Fluctuating renewable supplies can leave grid operators short of power and create price spikes, a phenomenon that's set to worsen as additional wind and solar hit Texas' grid, William Nelson, an analyst at Bloomberg New Energy Finance, said in a report. That could force grid operators to search for last minute more often, and that's where gas plants that can start up quickly step in.

It's a twist for Texas wind developers, which now account for about a fifth of the state's power mix. While the renewable surge has eaten into the profits of gas generators in recent years, it's now presenting the competition with an opportunity.

The volatility is "a silver lining on a sinking boat," said Nelson. "It sends a clear signal that flexibility is king."

Until the cost of storing wind and solar power in batteries comes down, renewables aren't much help to grid managers when the sun doesn't shine and the wind doesn't blow. Even small factors like ice build up on a turbine's blade can affect output, Dan Woodfin, senior director of system operations for the Electric Reliability Council of Texas, said.

The reliability council is planning a second forecasting service to make "on the fly adjustments," and is working toward producing wind forecasts that update on five-minute intervals, Woodfin said.

In the meantime, more volatility means higher profits for gas generators, which can ramp power output up or down regardless of the weather, Nelson said.

Texas wind farms typically slightly underestimate their daily output, Nelson said. That's because if they under-produce in a given hour, they could be charged as much as $9,000 per megawatt hour to backfill the production.

West Texas turbines are 94 percent accurate when predicting day-ahead hourly output, Nelson said. Still, the margin of error can lead to price spikes when demand surges that gas generators can take advantage of.

"Renewables seem to have been a bit of a problem for the margins in the area," Paul Patterson, analyst at Glenrock Associates LLC, said by phone Sept. 15. "You have a new disruptive technology being deployed."

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Daily Environment Report for EPA

To: Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
From: InsideEPA.com/climate
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Subject: Breaking News: Trump Announces Plan To Depart Paris

June 1, 2017

LATEST NEWS

Trump Announces Plan To Depart Paris But Open To Re-Enter On 'Fair' Terms

President Donald Trump has announced his intention to withdraw the United States from the landmark Paris climate agreement, starting a process to fulfill a campaign pledge to leave a deal he considers harmful to domestic interests but hampering the global effort to reduce greenhouse gases to avoid the worst impacts of climate change.

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To: Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
From: Bloomberg BNA
Sent: Thur 6/1/2017 8:14:47 PM
Subject: June 1 -- Daily Environment Report - Afternoon Briefing

Daily Environment Report

Afternoon Briefing - Your Preview of Today's News

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Trump to Withdraw U.S. from Climate Accord

Posted June 01, 2017, 03:52 P.M. ET

By Jennifer A. Dlouhy

President Donald Trump announced the U.S. would withdraw from the Paris climate pact and that he will seek to renegotiate the international agreement in a way that treats American workers better.

"So we are getting out, but we will start to negotiate and we will see if we can make a deal, and if we can, that's great. And if we can't, that's fine," Trump said Thursday, citing terms that he says benefit China's economy at the expense of the U.S.

Trump's announcement, delivered to cabinet members, supporters and conservative activists in the White House Rose Garden, spurns pleas from corporate executives, world leaders and even Pope Francis who warned the move imperils a global fight against climate change.

"In order to fulfill my solemn duty to protect America and its citizens, the United States will withdraw from the Paris climate accord, but begin negotiations to re-enter either the Paris accord or really an entirely new transaction on terms that are fair to the United States, its businesses" and its taxpayers, Trump said.

Although cast as a final decision, the announcement only prolongs uncertainty over the U.S. role in an agreement among almost 200 nations to address global warming. Trump is kicking off a withdrawal process that will take until November 2020 to unfold—creating an opening for him to reverse course and injecting it as an issue in the next presidential election.

Under the terms of the deal, the earliest the U.S. can formally extricate itself from the accord is Nov. 4, 2020—the day after the next presidential election. And Trump would have wide latitude to change his mind up until that point.

Trump, who has called climate change a "hoax," campaigned on the pledge to exit the 2015 pact, and criticized it as "one-sided" against U.S. interests. White House legal advisers and some

Republican lawmakers had warned that staying in the accord could undercut Trump's efforts to rescind rules on power-plant emissions and fuel efficiency.

The agreement "front-loads costs on the American people to the detriment of our economy and job growth while extracting meaningless commitments from the world's top global emitters, like China," a White House memo distributed Thursday said. "The U.S. is already leading the world in energy production and doesn't need a bad deal that will harm American workers."

Under the terms of the agreement, nations can adjust their emissions targets and their pledges vary widely. For instance, where the U.S. pledged to cut greenhouse gas emissions by at least 26 percent from 2005 levels, China said it would only begin reducing its emissions by about 2030. And India said it would only reduce the carbon intensity of its economy, meaning the nation's emissions would continue to rise.

Conservative groups quickly applauded Trump's decision.

"By not succumbing to pressure from special interests and cosmopolitan elites, the president demonstrated he is truly committed to putting America's economy first," Michael Needham, the chief executive officer of Heritage Action, said in a statement.

Environmentalists blasted the decision, saying it would turn the U.S. into an international pariah on climate change, even though it would not halt a global clean-energy revolution.

"The world has already resolved to act on climate, the renewable-energy industry is growing exponentially, and people all over the globe are becoming part of the clean energy future," said Greenpeace USA Executive Director Annie Leonard. "Progress will continue with or without Donald Trump, but he is making it as painful as possible for people around the world."

The move will have significant environmental and diplomatic consequences. As the richest nation and the second-largest emitter of carbon dioxide, the U.S. is central to efforts to address global warming. The Vatican, European leaders and companies as diverse as Exxon Mobil Corp. and Microsoft Corp. had urged the president to remain in the pact, with last-minute appeals by Tesla Inc.'s Elon Musk and Apple Inc.'s Tim Cook.

Corporate leaders have warned of long-term economic consequences, arguing that a withdrawal would put the U.S. at a disadvantage in the global race to develop and deploy clean-energy technology. They argued a U.S. exit also risks a backlash against American products, raising the specter of consumer boycotts or carbon tariffs from the European Union, China and other nations. Twenty-five companies, including Intel Corp., Microsoft and PG&E Corp., signed onto a letter that ran as a full-page advertisement in the New York Times on Thursday warning of potential "retaliatory measures."

"We respect President Trump's decision and will continue to work closely with his administration on issues related to energy policy," Royal Dutch Shell Plc, a supporter of the Paris accord, said in a statement.

"Shell recognizes that climate change is a challenge that belongs to all of society – not one individual or one country," the statement read. "For our part, we will continue to take internal actions and convene important conversations that acknowledge our role in providing more and cleaner energy."

Congressional Democrats quickly condemned the decision on the Paris accord. "Trump is betraying

the country, in the service of Breitbart fake news, the shameless fossil fuel industry, and the Koch brothers' climate denial operation," said Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse, a Democrat from Rhode Island.

Sen. Chris Murphy, a Democrat from Connecticut, tweeted "Dear planet, we're sorry. Please just hang on for three and a half more years and we'll fix this. We promise."

The debate whether to exit the agreement played out for months in the White House. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Scott Pruitt and chief strategist Stephen Bannon pushed for a exit. Those arguing to stay included Trump's daughter, Ivanka Trump, and Secretary of State Rex Tillerson. Energy Secretary Rick Perry endorsed a renegotiation.

The Paris accord is broader than any previous climate agreement. It calls for reducing carbon dioxide emissions in hopes of limiting global warming to 2 degrees Celsius (3.6 degrees Fahrenheit) above temperatures at the outset of the Industrial Revolution. That's the upper limit scientists have set to keep climate change from hitting an irreversible tipping point, unleashing catastrophic floods, droughts and storms.

The immediate effect on U.S. companies and consumers is muted.

Trump has already moved to dismantle regulations and government programs to fight global warming. He ordered a review of fuel-economy standards for cars and light trucks, which along with other vehicles are the U.S.'s largest source of greenhouse gases. And he set in motion a process to scrap the Clean Power Plan, which would have required utilities to slash their carbon-dioxide emissions. The EPA is also moving to rescind rules to prevent methane leaks.

Technically, Trump can't withdraw from the accord immediately. Under its terms, he must wait until November 2019 to formally submit his bid to quit. It will take another year after that before the U.S. is actually out.

Withdrawal would put the U.S. in league with just two other nations—Syria and Nicaragua—that are not participating in the agreement.

U.S. climate efforts won't completely cease just because Trump is walking away from Paris.

States including California, New York and Massachusetts continue to move forward with aggressive policies to cut carbon emissions. Anheuser-Busch InBev NV, Amazon.com Inc., Alphabet Inc.'s Google and other companies continue their push to power their facilities with wind and solar energy. Low-carbon wind, solar and natural gas are so cheap that the Department of Energy is studying what it can do to help ailing, older coal and nuclear plants.

--With assistance from Joe Ryan, Justin Sink, Jennifer Jacobs, Jennifer Epstein and Steven T. Dennis.

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EU Chemicals Agency Says Animals Used In 11% of REACH Data

Posted June 01, 2017, 03:33 P.M. ET

By Stephen Gardner

Methods to generate chemical safety data that don't require tests on animals are widely used by companies seeking to fulfill their obligations under the European Union's REACH regulation, the European Chemicals Agency said in a report published June 1.

However, new animal tests were used to generate 11 percent of the toxicological data contained in nearly 7,000 REACH registration dossiers that the agency analyzed for the report, despite a requirement in REACH that animal testing should only be done as a last resort. Companies that operate in Europe such as 3M, Albemarle and BASF must obtain approval from the chemicals agency for new animal tests under REACH.

Other chemical safety data came either from pre-REACH studies involving animals, or from non-animal methods, with 89 percent of registration dossiers containing at least some information from alternative approaches, the chemicals agency said.

The report also said that in many cases, chemical safety data generated from non-animal approaches had "quality deficiencies." Companies should be more rigorous when using read-across, or the prediction of the properties of substances from data on similar substances, the agency said.

Geert Dancet, executive director of the European Chemicals Agency, said companies planning to register chemicals by the final REACH deadline of May 31, 2018 should avoid animal tests, but "registrants need to improve the quality of the alternative data."

Under REACH (Regulation No. 1907/2006 on the registration, evaluation and authorization of chemicals), companies must submit dossiers containing information on the properties and safe use of chemicals to the European Chemicals Agency as a condition of access to the EU market. Deadlines for registration of high- and medium-volume substances passed in 2010 and 2013. The 2018 deadline applies to low-volume and specialist chemicals.

Read-Across

Quality problems with read-across approaches included lack of clarity on substance identity, the low quality of studies used as the source of read-across data, and "shortcomings in the toxicological hypothesis," the report said. Companies could consider cross-checking read-across results with other non-animal approaches, the report suggested

Read-across methods have been used to provide data related to human health, such as on the reprotoxic effects of chemicals, the agency said.

Erwin Annys, product stewardship manager with the European Chemical Industry Council, told Bloomberg BNA June 1 that the use of read-across had been held back because when companies were submitting REACH dossiers for high- and medium-volume substances, "the framework for assessing read-across had yet to be developed" by the chemicals agency.

"The European chemicals industry supports all alternatives to animal testing," but "some of these alternatives will materialize later than hoped for," Annys said. The chemicals agency has had an assessment framework companies can use to check their use of read-across approaches since 2015.

The campaign group People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals said despite the REACH requirement to minimize animal tests, about 1 million animals had been used in tests to generate data for REACH compliance purposes.

The results of animal tests are "often misleading" because of the physiological differences between animals and humans, PETA said.

EU Court Limits Environmental Liability Exemption

Posted June 01, 2017, 02:59 P.M. ET

By Stephen Gardner

Companies in the European Union that cause harm to water bodies cannot rely on permits issued before the bloc's Environmental Liability Directive took effect to dodge the directive's provisions, the EU Court of Justice ruled June 1.

In a case referred from an Austrian court, the Court of Justice said that under the EU Environmental Liability Directive (ELD, 2004/35/EC), a hydropower plant should be liable for ongoing damage to a stretch of river, even though it was operating in line with an environmental permit granted by Austrian authorities in 1998.

The 2004 directive requires EU countries to make polluters legally and financially responsible for remedying environmental damage to protected species and natural habitats.

The EU court said it was "common ground" that the hydropower plant had caused "excess fish mortality" because of "major fluctuations" in the water level of a river in southeastern Austria after April 30, 2007, when Austria was required to have adopted the provisions of the ELD into its national law.

A court in Austria in 2012 found that the power plant operator, Wasserkraftanlagen Mürzzuschlag GmbH, was not liable for damages, saying Austrian law containing provisions of the ELD excluded damage to water bodies where the activities that caused the damage were covered by a prior authorization.

But the EU court said "the mere fact that it is covered by an authorization" did not mean that the harm caused by the hydropower plant should not be considered "environmental damage" in line with the ELD.

The judgment is "an important ruling and confirms the commission's interpretation of the requirements of the directive on environmental liability," Enrico Brivio, a spokesman for the European Commission, the EU's executive, told Bloomberg BNA June 1.

Anton Lazarus of the European Environmental Bureau called the ELD "a crucial EU tool" to hold polluters to account, and "any ruling that strengthens this law is to be warmly welcomed."

The EU Court of Justice referred the case back to the Austrian Administrative Court for a final ruling on the dispute about the environmental impact of the power plant's activities.

Taiwan Approves Four-Year Plan to Double Wind Power

Posted June 01, 2017, 02:23 P.M. ET

By Yu-Tzu Chiu

Taiwan approved a plan June 1 to double its installed wind power capacity over the next four years.

The government will build or back wind farms onshore and set up model wind farms in near-shore areas with a goal of increasing Taiwan's installed wind-power capacity from 652 megawatts to 1.334 gigawatts, it said.

"Government initiatives to promote solar and wind power are crucial for Taiwan to conduct energy transition, phase out energy power, and develop green energy industries," Hsu Kuo-yung, a spokesman for the Taiwan Cabinet, said at a news conference.

The government has a long-range goal of reaching 4.2 gigawatts of installed wind power by 2025, and that could spur investment from the private sector worth 613.5 billion Taiwan dollars ($20.4 billion), said the Ministry of Economic Affairs.

Taiwan President Tsai Ing-wen, since her inauguration in May 2016, has called for generating one-fifth of Taiwan's total power from renewable energy by 2025, as part of an effort to phase out nuclear power.

Taiwan hopes to increase its total sustainable energy capacity to 27 gigawatts by 2025, including 20 gigawatts from solar energy, 4.2 gigawatts from wind energy, and the remaining from biomass, geothermal energy, hydropower and hydrogen energies.

Finland Launches Subsidies for Energy-Intensive Businesses

Posted June 01, 2017, 02:07 P.M. ET

By Marcus Hoy

Energy-intensive industries in Finland can apply for subsidies to compensate for higher electricity prices caused by the European Union's greenhouse gas emissions trading program under a new state aid initiative that took effect June 1.

Finland's subsidies, which will cover the years 2016 through 2020, join similar programs in at least eight other European Union countries, according to Kati Ruohomaki, senior adviser on energy and climate issues at the Confederation of Finnish Industries. Finland's subsidies are set at a level around half of the maximum allowed amount under the EU's Emissions Trading Directive (2003/87/EC), she said in a statement.

According to information provided to Bloomberg BNA by the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment, companies do not need to be participants in European Union's Emissions Trading System (ETS) in order to qualify for subsidies.

Instead, companies in sectors such as iron, steel, and chemical manufacturing as well as producers of fertilizers and textiles will be eligible if they face electricity price hikes due to a power company's participation in the scheme. Eligibility also can be based on the price of emission allowances or production volumes. Companies operating in eligible sectors must submit subsidy applications for 2016 by Sept. 30.

Around EUR 43 million ($48 million) is expected to be made available in 2017, the Ministry said, and the current estimate for available aid between 2018 and 2021 is around EUR 30 million per year.

However, this figure may be revised if the price of emission allowances changes.

Finland's subsidies are "not a perfect solution" because nation-based aid programs can distort markets between countries, Ruohomaki said.

"It would be better to have a fully harmonized compensation system inside the ETS scheme, but unfortunately this looks unlikely to be realized," she said.

Obama EPA Chief Joins Environmental Equity Firm as Adviser

Posted June 01, 2017, 12:45 P.M. ET

By Brian Dabbs

Former EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy is joining an investment firm, marking a departure from three decades in the public sector.

Pegasus Capital Advisors, which invests in companies spanning the environmental spectrum, took on McCarthy as an operating adviser, the firm announced June 1. The firm partners with the United Nations and private networks, such as the Clinton Global Initiative, to spur environmentally conscious practices, according to its website.

"I'm excited to put my public service and academic experience to use in the private sector, which is increasingly where most innovation is happening," McCarthy said in a news release.

McCarthy led the Environmental Protection Agency from 2013 through the end of the Obama administration. Prior to that, she led the agency's Office of Air and Radiation.

Italy Switches on Five New Subsidy-Free Solar Power Plants

Posted June 01, 2017, 11:39 A.M. ET

By Jessica Shankleman

Octopus Investments Ltd. started generating power from five subsidy-free solar plants in Italy in the latest sign that clean-energy can be profitable without government support.

The plants have a two-year fixed power price agreement in place with Italian power trader Green Trade SA, said Matt Setchell, head of renewable energy investments at Octopus, in a phone call. The plants are located in the Montalto di Castro region of Italy and have a combined capacity of 63 megawatts. Panels were supplied by Canadian Solar Inc.

"Renewable power doesn't always need the government," Setchell said. "It's being driven by demand, rather than subsidy."

Globally, solar prices have fallen by 62 percent since 2009, with every part of the supply chain trimming costs. That's help cut risk premiums on bank loans, and pushed manufacturing capacity to record levels. By 2025, solar may be cheaper than using coal on average around the globe, according to Bloomberg New Energy Finance.

Europe currently has a handful of subsidy-free solar plants, located in Spain and Italy, according to

Lara Hayim, at the London-based researcher. Those projects do run the risk of "cannibalizing" themselves by producing large volumes of solar energy, that in turn, can depress the high wholesale power prices that the projects rely upon, she said.

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The Country Adopting Electric Vehicles Faster Than Anywhere Else

Posted June 01, 2017, 8:01 A.M. ET

By Matthew Campbell

Since the 14th century, Akershus Fortress has protected Oslo from raids by bloodthirsty Swedes. Now a Cold War bomb shelter in its basement is being repurposed to help save the Norwegian capital from more insidious foes: pollution and global warming. Starting this month, electric car owners will be able to drive down a narrow ramp between rough-hewn rock walls dripping with condensation and plug in at one of 86 charging stations—for free.

The facility will get plenty of use as Norwegians switch to electric vehicles faster than anyone else on the planet. More than a third of all new cars are either fully electric or plug-in hybrids, well over 10 times the proportion in the U.S. With about 100,000 electrics on the road, Norway (population 5 million) trails only the U.S., China, and Japan in absolute numbers. By 2025, the government has suggested, there may be no gasoline- or diesel-powered cars sold in the country. "It's safe to say that Norway is the first mass market for EVs," says Sture Portvik, the city official overseeing the Akershus garage.

Norway's electric vehicle boom has been built on generous government incentives. EVs are exempt from car-purchase taxes and the 25 percent sales tax levied on just about everything else, and they get a break on annual fees. Drivers plug in for free at municipal power points, generally don't pay tolls, and can use bus lanes to avoid traffic. On ferries across Norway's deep fjords, electrics travel at no cost. It's no surprise, then, that Norwegians call gasoline-powered vehicles fossilbiler—fossil cars.

The subsidies were introduced in the 1990s to support a fledgling, and never particularly successful, domestic electric vehicle industry. "There was hardly anything to buy," so few people took advantage of the perks, says Christina Bu of the Norwegian EV Association, a consumer group with 40,000 members. The incentives were still on the books when the first truly competitive options, the Nissan Leaf and the Tesla Model S, were introduced about five years ago. Suddenly, "the market expanded before politicians realized what was going on," Bu says.

Norway's plug-in leader per capita is the municipality of Finnoy, where 281 cars out of a total of 1,508—or 19 percent—are fully electric, compared with 4 percent nationally. One big reason: Battery-powered cars don't pay the $18 toll for the tunnel leading to the town. Early on, many Norwegians considered electrics only as a second car and kept a conventional vehicle for long-distance driving, says Pierril Pouret, who leads Nissan Motor Co.'s plug-in business in the Nordic region. But as ranges improve, "we're arriving at the moment when the majority of the market is about to shift to EVs," he says.

Before politicians elsewhere seek to emulate Norway, they should consider its special circumstances. Most important: the electricity. In much of the world, more power means more coal, but Norway's dramatic landscape provides as much cheap hydroelectricity as its small population needs, so plug-ins don't strain the grid. Gas costs about $7 a gallon at local pumps, and the tax

exemptions are compelling because the country has long levied auto taxes that can double the price of a new set of wheels. “Pay for two cars, get one,” goes a weary maxim.

There’s a problem at the heart of the whole endeavor: If the rest of the world copied the country overnight, the Norwegians would be out of business. Norway is Western Europe’s largest oil and gas exporter, and the revenue lost from tax breaks on Teslas is dwarfed by the $15 billion-plus the government receives annually from the country’s energy sales. Even as Norway tries to reduce emissions on the road, state-controlled Statoil ASA is expanding oil exploration, pushing farther into the Arctic Sea. “We have a very hypocritical policy,” says Daniel Rees, an adviser on transportation and the environment for the opposition Green Party. “The government is trying to create this image that we are a leader in saving the world from climate change, when we are actually one of the main contributors to it.”

The man in charge of Norway’s EV policies argues there’s no contradiction between drilling for oil with one hand and plugging in cars with the other. “Yes, we made a lot of money on oil, but we know there are downsides to the product, and we try to take the world to the next level,” says Transport Minister Ketil Solvik-Olsen. A member of the libertarian-leaning Progress Party, Solvik-Olsen is a car guy: Every spare surface in his Oslo office is covered with toy Chevrolets, Ferraris, and Mercedes-Benzes, and he drives a 1985 Cadillac Seville. Yet he concedes the end of the gasoline era is nigh. “It’s not like the world is not going to need oil in 10 years, but maybe you’re not going to use it for transportation,” he says.

Lately, Norwegian officials have begun curbing the incentives. With 17,000 EVs in Oslo alone, blanket exemptions from tolls and carte blanche access to bus lanes can seem a little excessive. Opposition politicians have suggested capping the tax relief available for plug-in purchases so the subsidies cover a smaller slice of the sticker price for, say, high-end Teslas. And the central government in the past year has started giving municipalities the option of watering down some of the advantages. Solvik-Olsen says most of the incentives will disappear once they’ve done their job. “We may have to do this for three, four, five more years,” he says, “but from then on, the market will be in place.”—With Sveinung Sleire

The bottom line: More than a third of new cars in Norway are electrics or plug-in hybrids, thanks to breaks on taxes, tolls, and lane restrictions.

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Daily Environment Report for EPA

To: Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
From: Anna Palmer Jake Sherman Daniel Lippman
Sent: Fri 9/15/2017 5:09:53 PM
Subject: Playbook Power Briefing, presented by CTIA: MAY on Trump's Scotland Yard tweet -- OUR MAN IN ENGLAND: PLAYBOOK LONDON's Jack Blanchard sets the scene -- PENCE'S press secretary leaving -- DYLAN BYERS' NEW BEAT

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Today's Playbook Power Briefing presented by CTIA

By ANNA PALMER (anna@politico.com; @apalmerdc), JAKE SHERMAN (sherman@politico.com; @JakeSherman), DANIEL LIPPMAN (daniel@politico.com; @dlippman) and ZACH MONTELLARO (zmontellaro@politico.com; @ZachMontellaro)

HAPPY FRIDAY! CREW sought visitor logs from Mar-a-Lago. They got 22 names. http://bit.ly/2ycx12f

-- CREW PRESIDENT NOAH BOOKBINDER : "After waiting months for a response to our request for comprehensive visitor logs from the President's multiple visits to Mar-a-Lago and having the government ask for a last minute extension, today we received 22 names from the Japanese Prime Minister's visit to Mar-a-Lago and nothing else. The government does not believe that they need to release any further Mar-a-Lago visitor records. We vehemently disagree. The government seriously misrepresented their intentions to both us and the court. This was spitting in the eye of transparency. We will be fighting this in court."

ON THE PRESIDENT'S MIND -- @realDonaldTrump at 6:37 a.m.: "With the ridiculous Filibuster Rule in the Senate, Republicans need 60 votes to pass legislation, rather than 51. Can't get votes, END NOW!" ... **at 6:42 a.m.:** "Another attack in London by a loser terrorist.These are sick and demented people who were in the sights of Scotland Yard. Must be proactive!" ... **at 6:48 a.m.:** "Loser terrorists must be dealt with in a much tougher manner.The internet is their main recruitment tool which we must cut off & use better!" ...

... at 6:54 a.m.: "The travel ban into the United States should be far larger, tougher and more specific-but stupidly, that would not be politically correct!" ... **7:00 a.m.:** "We have made more progress in the last nine months against ISIS than the Obama Administration has made in 8 years.Must be proactive & nasty!" ... **at 7:20 a.m.:** "ESPN is paying a really big price for its politics (and bad programming). People are dumping it in RECORD numbers. Apologize for untruth!" ... **at 9:00 a.m.:** "CHAIN MIGRATION cannot be allowed to be part of any legislation on Immigration!"

-- THERESA MAY on **TRUMP'S** "Scotland Yard" tweet: "I never think it's helpful for anybody to speculate on what is an ongoing investigation." http://bbc.in/2xE2wFn

THE LATEST FROM LONDON -- THE TELEGRAPH: "A huge counter-terrorism investigation is under way after a bucket bomb was detonated on a packed London Underground train at Parsons Green.

"Witnesses described scenes of terror and panic after the blast sent a 'fireball' and a 'wall of flame' through a District line service in west London. At least 22 people were injured, including a boy believed to be aged about 10. A major manhunt for the bomber has been launched, with police working with MI5 as they forensically examine the device. No arrests have so far been made and the attacker remains at large, with an unconfirmed report that the security services have identified a suspect from CCTV." http://bit.ly/2xCSaFJ

-- TRUMP called P.M. Theresa May: Readout from the White House: "President Donald J. Trump spoke with Prime Minister Theresa May of the United Kingdom to convey his sympathies and prayers for those injured in the terrorist attack today in London. The President pledged to continue close collaboration with the United Kingdom to stop attacks worldwide targeting innocent civilians and to combat extremism."

-- ABC'S GEORGE STEPHANOPOULOS was in London and interviewed May.

OUR MAN IN LONDON -- LONDON PLAYBOOK AUTHOR JACK BLANCHARD -- PATIENCE IS WEARING THIN WITH TRUMP: "Here in London, Downing Street officials and the Met Police are privately seething at Donald Trump's intervention following this morning's terror attack.

"Theresa May is always incredibly careful with her words - so for her to criticise the President in public as she did this afternoon is really quite significant. 'I never think it is helpful for anybody to speculate on what is an ongoing investigation,' May told broadcasters, when asked about his comments.

"Coming from May, this classes as a genuine slap-down . I would expect the two leaders to kiss and make up later today and proceed with an expected bilateral meeting at the U.N General Assembly in New York next week. The trans-Atlantic alliance is simply too important for Britain to bear a grudge.

"But there is also something of a back story here . Trump's Twitter attacks on the Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan, in the immediate aftermath of the London Bridge atrocity, were met with real anger by most people here in the city, including those in government. And when the Manchester Arena was bombed, there was immense frustration inside Number 10 that details of the ongoing police investigation - including crime scene photos - were repeatedly leaked to the press by the U.S administration.

"The view is that our closest and most trusted ally keeps unwittingly compromising these important investigations -- and patience is wearing thin."

****** **A message from CTIA and America's wireless industry:** The global race to

deploy 5G wireless is on-and America needs to win. Government action on spectrum and infrastructure policy will allow U.S. wireless companies to invest $275 billion, create more than 3 million jobs, and add $500 billion to the economy, according to Accenture. Learn more at CTIA.org. ******

AXIOS'S JONATHAN SWAN -- "Mike Pence's press secretary is leaving": "Mike Pence's press secretary Marc Lotter is leaving the administration, according to two sources with knowledge of the decision. He plans to become a prominent surrogate for Trump and Pence's political activity on the outside. I haven't confirmed which outside group he'll be working with. He'll stay on for the next few weeks to help Chief of Staff Nick Ayers and Deputy Chief of Staff Jarrod Agen transition his role, as the Pence team has narrowed its replacement search to a couple of finalists." http://bit.ly/2x2QuVw

TRUMP INC. -- WAPO: "Taxpayers billed $1,092 for an official's two-night stay at Trump's Mar-a-Lago club," by Drew Harwell and Amy Brittain: "The bedroom suites at President Trump's Mar-a-Lago club, available only to members and their guests, feature hand-painted Moorish ceilings, antique Spanish-tiled mosaics and sweeping views of the Atlantic Ocean.

"On a weekend in early March, during one of seven trips by Trump and his White House entourage to the posh Palm Beach property since the inauguration, the government paid the Trump-owned club to reserve at least one bedroom for two nights. The charge, according to a newly disclosed receipt reviewed by The Washington Post, was $1,092.

"The amount was based on a per-night price of $546, which, according to the bill, was Mar-a-Lago's 'rack rate,' the hotel industry term for a standard, non-discounted price.

The receipt, which was obtained in recent days by the transparency advocacy group Property of the People and verified by The Post, offers one of the first concrete signs that Trump's use of Mar-a-Lago as the 'Winter White House' has resulted in taxpayer funds flowing directly into the coffers of his private business." http://wapo.st/2y3IIr9

NOT INSIGNIFICANT -- -- "SLF raised $1.9M, spent $4M amidst Alabama primary," by Maggie Severns: "The Mitch McConnell-aligned Senate Leadership Fund spent $3.5 million supporting Republican Sen. Luther Strange in the Alabama Senate race during August and early September and raised $1.9 million during that time, according to new disclosures filed ahead of the run-off election. The super PAC spent $4 million overall." ***More for Pros*** http://politico.pro/2xERHTA

BUZZ -- CNN'S DYLAN BYERS, a long-time media reporter (and POLITICO alum), is leaving the media beat to cover tech and new power players like Mark Zuckerberg and Elon Musk. Byers -- who is based in Los Angeles -- didn't respond to a request for comment.

N.Y. MAG'S OLIVIA NUZZI -- "Here's Why Steve Bannon Wears So Many Shirts" http://bit.ly/2x3Y0Nb

THE LATEST ON RUSSIA -- "Manafort's spokesman spends 2 and 1/2 hours testifying before grand jury," by Josh Gerstein: "When he emerged just before noon, the Manafort spokesman spoke briefly with assembled reporters and photographers, but declined to go into detail about what he was asked. 'I was ordered to appear before the grand jury,' said [Jason] Maloni, with the communications firm Jade Rock. 'I answered questions and I've been dismissed.'" http://politi.co/2h6WBOp

AFTERNOON READ -- MICHAEL KRUSE in **POLITICO Mag -- "The Loneliest President** : He's increasingly isolated in the White House, but for Donald Trump, being alone is not a liability. It's where he's most comfortable": "He's been a loner most of his life. At New York Military Academy, everybody knew him but few of his fellow cadets knew him well. In college, he made no friends he kept. After he moved to Manhattan, he lived in a sealed-off triplex penthouse, relied on a small, family-first cadre of loyalists and mainly made more enemies than allies (the mayor was a 'moron,' elite 'so-called social scene' types were 'extremely unattractive people,' and on and on). At his casinos in Atlantic City, he was adamant about not mingling with the gambling masses. Now, in Washington, he's a two-scoops cable-watcher inside the White House when he's not weekending at his clutch of protective, name-branded bubbles. Trump, forever, has collected an array of acquaintances, fellow celebrities and photo-op props, while friendships mostly have been interchangeable, temporary and transactional." http://politi.co/2h7zfs7

VID DU JOUR: @MikeSacksEsq: "Frank was all business. Didn't even stop to say hi when POTUS came out." http://bit.ly/2h6pgmF ... **@CNN:** "This 11-year-old boy who wrote a letter to President Trump is mowing the White House lawn today -- for free" http://bit.ly/2h6aix0

--@dougmillsnyt: ".@realDonaldTrump speaks to reporters to aboard Air Force One as @FoxNews reports on the dinner w/@POTUS & @SenSchumer & @NancyPelosi #DACA" http://bit.ly/2x1CtHu

WAR REPORT -- "'Like Berlin 1945': Russia, U.S. Race for Last Corner of Syria," by Bloomberg's Henry Meyer, Donna Abu-Nasr, Nick Wadhams and Ilya Arkhipov: "A few miles apart in the Euphrates River valley, Russia and the U.S. are fighting separate military campaigns against Islamic State -- and an underlying strategic battle with each other, whose outcome could reshape the Middle East. The Syrian civil war reached another tipping point last week when Bashar al-Assad's Russian-backed army arrived at the city of Deir Ezzor on the Euphrates, breaking an Islamic State siege that lasted almost three years. Further east across the river, and still held by the jihadists, lie some of Syria's main oilfields.

"And beyond that is the border with Iraq -- making the territory crucial for Assad's other main sponsors. The Iranians provide many of his shock troops. In return, they

want a land corridor in friendly hands along which they can exert influence, and deliver weapons, all the way from Tehran to the Mediterranean. That's an outcome U.S. allies in the region, chiefly Israel and Saudi Arabia, are desperate to prevent. A few days later came the American counter-move. U.S.-armed militias peeled off from their own fight against ISIS in the jihadist capital of Raqqa, to embark on a high-speed drive toward Deir Ezzor. They advanced 150 miles in 24 hours, the American-led coalition said on Sept. 10." https://bloom.bg/2xEMds8

COMING ATTRACTIONS -- N.J. GOV. CHRIS CHRISTIE has been added as a speaker at the UANI Iran Summit next Tuesday at the Roosevelt Hotel in New York. http://bit.ly/2vP6dVb

SWEET TOOTH -- "Joe Manchin -- Centrist Democrat, Budding French Pastry Chef," by WSJ's Kristina Peterson: "'It's been brought to my attention that people have been making fun of me because I could not tell the difference between an egg and ice cream,' Mr. Manchin said in a video posted on Twitter Thursday afternoon. 'When's the last time you saw an egg in Farmington, West Virginia, that was ice cream?' Mr. Manchin said, referring to the town where he was raised. 'An egg's an egg!'

"In this instance, however, the egg at the White House was actually an elegant dollop of ice cream, formed into what's known as a quenelle using a French cooking technique -- as Mr. Manchin learned when he did a little digging. 'I was a little bit befuddled but then I've done some research and the research tells me this is a French quenelle,' Mr. Manchin said. ... After doing his own Internet research, Mr. Manchin took spoon to ice cream to prove that with a delicate flick of the wrist, he too could transform the cold, white mass into a sleek quenelle." http://on.wsj.com/2xDRRdV ... ***The video*** http://bit.ly/2xDpSv3

MEDIAWATCH -- VARIETY'S BRIAN STEINBERG: "Meghan McCain to Leave Fox News Channel (EXCLUSIVE)": "McCain is the oldest daughter of U.S. Senator John McCain, the Arizona Republican and 2008 presidential candidate, who in July was diagnosed with brain cancer following a procedure to remove a blood clot above his left eye. She was seen on Fox News as one of the co-hosts on 'Outnumbered,' an afternoon program that added a different male guest each day to a rotating group of female contributors. 'Meghan has been a valuable part of 'Outnumbered' and the Fox News team,' the 21st Century Fox-owned outlet said in a statement. 'We're sad to see her go, but we wish her all the best.'" http://bit.ly/2wgs9Mn

-- "NBC News Will Launch Coverage of Media Industry," by Variety's Brian Steinberg: "The NBCUniversal unit said Friday that it would rely on a handful of staffers, new hires and contributors to report on everything from the frenetic innovations in how content is distributed to the effects the current political scene has on how consumers get their information. Much of the coverage will be offered via a digital 'vertical' devoted to the subject, the name of which will be released at a later date. NBC News named Claire Atkinson, a former media-industry reporter for the New York Post, as a senior editor and reporter to lead its efforts. ...

"The NBCUniversal unit said it would also tap current NBC News and MSNBC contributors like Gabriel Sherman, a writer for Vanity Fair, and Steve Brill, a media entrepreneur. John Huey, the former editor in chief of Time Inc., will join to contribute to digital and broadcast. And the NBC News venture will rely on contributors from media outlets in which its parent company has invested. Kara Swisher and Peter Kafka, two senior editorial operatives at Recode, part of Vox Media, will serve as contributors, as will Ben Smith, editor in chief of Buzzfeed, another outlet in which NBCU holds a significant stake." http://bit.ly/2h6sHtD

J.D. VANCE UPDATE -- "Hillbilly Elegy Writer Won't Seek Office," by The Atlantic's Molly Ball http://theatln.tc/2h7qazw

TODAY'S BEYOND THE BELTWAY -- Poll finds half of NJ voters think Menendez shouldn't be reelected -- Harris would back Feinstein '100 percent' for reelection http://politi.co/2xE8ciO

HISTORY LESSON -- JON MEACHAM in Time, **"My Father's Vietnam":** "Thirty years after everything happened--and 31 years since he had first set foot in Southeast Asia--my father, a soldier of the Fourth Infantry Division, wrote me a letter. It was 1999, and the note came with a set of recently rediscovered photographs he and his friends had taken with an old 35-mm Minolta in the Central Highlands of Vietnam. There were images of impossibly young men, their helmets heavy on their heads, carrying M-16s, smoking cigarettes and trying to look happy--itself a form of bravery. There were pictures of the lush landscape and of villagers going about their business, drawing water and sitting, watching, some blankly, all warily.

"My father's words, though, were the most poignant part of the package. 'I thought you might like to have these,' he wrote me. 'You are the historian, and I know you will preserve them. I remember the brutal heat, the more brutal humidity, the chop-chop-chop of the helicopter blades and elephant grass that could cut men up like a knife. And I remember many things that I have never told you, or anyone. Those are the demons that I will always bear. South Vietnam, for me, is a place I've never really left.'" http://ti.me/2xEDdTO

#CONCORDIA17: POLITICO is the official media partner of the 2017 Concordia Annual Summit taking place in conjunction with the UN General Assembly in NYC on Sept 18 and 19. Join us in the Big Apple as we host conversations with world leaders, industry experts, current and former heads of states, C-suite executives, and senior Congressional and Administration officials. Don't miss POLITICO reporters: **Bryan Bender**, Defense Editor, **Jack Blanchard**, Editor, Playbook London, **Helena Bottemiller Evich**, Senior Food and Agriculture Reporter, **Michael Crowley**, National Security Editor, **Susan Glasser**, Chief Foreign Affairs Correspondent & Global POLITICO Host **, Nick Juliano**, Deputy Energy Editor, **Matt Kaminski**, Executive Editor, POLITICO Europe, **Anna Palmer**, Senior Washington Correspondent and co-author of Playbook and **Ben White**, Chief Economic Correspondent. Register here:

http://bit.ly/2wETVit

PLAYBOOK METRO SECTION -- Washingtonian's Benjamin Freed: "The National Zoo announced Thursday that its adult female giant panda, Mei Xiang, failed to conceive after being artificially inseminated earlier this year, despite signaling over the past few weeks that she might have been pregnant. The zoo had closed its Panda House on September first after the 19-year-old bear exhibited a heightened sensitivity to noise, elevated hormone levels, and other signs indicative of either a pregnancy or pseudopregnancy." http://bit.ly/2h7bpws

OUT AND ABOUT -- EU Ambassador David O'Sullivan and the Business Council for International Understanding hosted a reception in honor of the 60th anniversary of the Treaty of Rome at the Anderson House last night. **SPOTTED:** Secretary Wilbur Ross and Hilary Geary Ross, German Amb. Peter Wittig, Italian Amb. Armando Varricchio, Spanish Amb. Pedro Morenés, Greek Amb. Haris Lalacos, Albert Bourla, Roland Verstappe, Julie Monaco, Selina Jackson, Mark Anderson, Sheryl Wilkerson, David Crane, Eric Pelofsky and Will Center.

SPOTTED at Nelson Cunningham's Georgetown house for a party to celebrate Bill Drozdiak's new book "Fractured Continent: Europe's Crises and the Fate of the West" (_ http://amzn.to/2vYynwe): EU Amb. David O'Sullivan, Mack McLarty, John Negroponte, Jim Hoagland, Margaret Warner, Robin Wright, Polish Ambassador Piotr Wilczek, Evelyn Farkas, Steve Clemons, Margaret Carlson, Sidney Blumenthal, Amb. Lee Feinstein and Jessica Elledge.

BONUS BIRTHDAYS -- Jake Kastan, Team Ryan's deputy executive director (hat tip: Zack Roday) ... **Jill Moschak**

****** **A message from CTIA and America's wireless industry:** Tomorrow's 5G networks will create 3 million jobs, add $500 billion to the economy, and fuel innovation and entrepreneurialism across every sector. If policymakers move quickly to release more spectrum and modernize infrastructure rules, the wireless industry stands ready to invest $275 billion to build these next-gen networks, according to Accenture. This will drive breakthrough advancements in remote health care, connected vehicles, energy, education and beyond-making our lives better and safer. But the race to deploy 5G wireless networks is underway-and we're at a critical moment. The EU, China, Japan, South Korea and others are doing everything they can to win. If policymakers act now, the U.S. can continue our global leadership in wireless. Learn how at CTIA.org. ******

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To: Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
From: Bloomberg BNA
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Subject: June 1 -- Energy and Climate Report - Afternoon Briefing

Energy and Climate Report

Afternoon Briefing - Your Preview of Today's News

The following news provides a snapshot of what Bloomberg BNA is working on today. Read the full version of all the stories in the final issue, published each night.

Trump to Withdraw U.S. from Climate Accord

Posted June 01, 2017, 03:52 P.M. ET

By Jennifer A. Dlouhy

President Donald Trump announced the U.S. would withdraw from the Paris climate pact and that he will seek to renegotiate the international agreement in a way that treats American workers better.

"So we are getting out, but we will start to negotiate and we will see if we can make a deal, and if we can, that's great. And if we can't, that's fine," Trump said Thursday, citing terms that he says benefit China's economy at the expense of the U.S.

Trump's announcement, delivered to cabinet members, supporters and conservative activists in the White House Rose Garden, spurns pleas from corporate executives, world leaders and even Pope Francis who warned the move imperils a global fight against climate change.

"In order to fulfill my solemn duty to protect America and its citizens, the United States will withdraw from the Paris climate accord, but begin negotiations to re-enter either the Paris accord or really an entirely new transaction on terms that are fair to the United States, its businesses" and its taxpayers, Trump said.

Although cast as a final decision, the announcement only prolongs uncertainty over the U.S. role in an agreement among almost 200 nations to address global warming. Trump is kicking off a withdrawal process that will take until November 2020 to unfold—creating an opening for him to reverse course and injecting it as an issue in the next presidential election.

Under the terms of the deal, the earliest the U.S. can formally extricate itself from the accord is Nov. 4, 2020—the day after the next presidential election. And Trump would have wide latitude to change his mind up until that point.

Trump, who has called climate change a "hoax," campaigned on the pledge to exit the 2015 pact, and criticized it as "one-sided" against U.S. interests. White House legal advisers and some Republican lawmakers had warned that staying in the accord could undercut Trump's efforts to rescind rules on power-plant emissions and fuel efficiency.

The agreement "front-loads costs on the American people to the detriment of our economy and job

growth while extracting meaningless commitments from the world's top global emitters, like China," a White House memo distributed Thursday said. "The U.S. is already leading the world in energy production and doesn't need a bad deal that will harm American workers."

Under the terms of the agreement, nations can adjust their emissions targets and their pledges vary widely. For instance, where the U.S. pledged to cut greenhouse gas emissions by at least 26 percent from 2005 levels, China said it would only begin reducing its emissions by about 2030. And India said it would only reduce the carbon intensity of its economy, meaning the nation's emissions would continue to rise.

Conservative groups quickly applauded Trump's decision.

"By not succumbing to pressure from special interests and cosmopolitan elites, the president demonstrated he is truly committed to putting America's economy first," Michael Needham, the chief executive officer of Heritage Action, said in a statement.

Environmentalists blasted the decision, saying it would turn the U.S. into an international pariah on climate change, even though it would not halt a global clean-energy revolution.

"The world has already resolved to act on climate, the renewable-energy industry is growing exponentially, and people all over the globe are becoming part of the clean energy future," said Greenpeace USA Executive Director Annie Leonard. "Progress will continue with or without Donald Trump, but he is making it as painful as possible for people around the world."

The move will have significant environmental and diplomatic consequences. As the richest nation and the second-largest emitter of carbon dioxide, the U.S. is central to efforts to address global warming. The Vatican, European leaders and companies as diverse as Exxon Mobil Corp. and Microsoft Corp. had urged the president to remain in the pact, with last-minute appeals by Tesla Inc.'s Elon Musk and Apple Inc.'s Tim Cook.

Corporate leaders have warned of long-term economic consequences, arguing that a withdrawal would put the U.S. at a disadvantage in the global race to develop and deploy clean-energy technology. They argued a U.S. exit also risks a backlash against American products, raising the specter of consumer boycotts or carbon tariffs from the European Union, China and other nations. Twenty-five companies, including Intel Corp., Microsoft and PG&E Corp., signed onto a letter that ran as a full-page advertisement in the New York Times on Thursday warning of potential "retaliatory measures."

"We respect President Trump's decision and will continue to work closely with his administration on issues related to energy policy," Royal Dutch Shell Plc, a supporter of the Paris accord, said in a statement.

"Shell recognizes that climate change is a challenge that belongs to all of society – not one individual or one country," the statement read. "For our part, we will continue to take internal actions and convene important conversations that acknowledge our role in providing more and cleaner energy."

Congressional Democrats quickly condemned the decision on the Paris accord. "Trump is betraying the country, in the service of Breitbart fake news, the shameless fossil fuel industry, and the Koch brothers' climate denial operation," said Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse, a Democrat from Rhode Island.

Sen. Chris Murphy, a Democrat from Connecticut, tweeted "Dear planet, we're sorry. Please just

hang on for three and a half more years and we'll fix this. We promise."

The debate whether to exit the agreement played out for months in the White House. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Scott Pruitt and chief strategist Stephen Bannon pushed for a exit. Those arguing to stay included Trump's daughter, Ivanka Trump, and Secretary of State Rex Tillerson. Energy Secretary Rick Perry endorsed a renegotiation.

The Paris accord is broader than any previous climate agreement. It calls for reducing carbon dioxide emissions in hopes of limiting global warming to 2 degrees Celsius (3.6 degrees Fahrenheit) above temperatures at the outset of the Industrial Revolution. That's the upper limit scientists have set to keep climate change from hitting an irreversible tipping point, unleashing catastrophic floods, droughts and storms.

The immediate effect on U.S. companies and consumers is muted.

Trump has already moved to dismantle regulations and government programs to fight global warming. He ordered a review of fuel-economy standards for cars and light trucks, which along with other vehicles are the U.S.'s largest source of greenhouse gases. And he set in motion a process to scrap the Clean Power Plan, which would have required utilities to slash their carbon-dioxide emissions. The EPA is also moving to rescind rules to prevent methane leaks.

Technically, Trump can't withdraw from the accord immediately. Under its terms, he must wait until November 2019 to formally submit his bid to quit. It will take another year after that before the U.S. is actually out.

Withdrawal would put the U.S. in league with just two other nations—Syria and Nicaragua—that are not participating in the agreement.

U.S. climate efforts won't completely cease just because Trump is walking away from Paris.

States including California, New York and Massachusetts continue to move forward with aggressive policies to cut carbon emissions. Anheuser-Busch InBev NV, Amazon.com Inc., Alphabet Inc.'s Google and other companies continue their push to power their facilities with wind and solar energy. Low-carbon wind, solar and natural gas are so cheap that the Department of Energy is studying what it can do to help ailing, older coal and nuclear plants.

--With assistance from Joe Ryan, Justin Sink, Jennifer Jacobs, Jennifer Epstein and Steven T. Dennis.

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Taiwan Approves Four-Year Plan to Double Wind Power

Posted June 01, 2017, 02:23 P.M. ET

By Yu-Tzu Chiu

Taiwan approved a plan June 1 to double its installed wind power capacity over the next four years.

The government will build or back wind farms onshore and set up model wind farms in near-shore areas with a goal of increasing Taiwan's installed wind-power capacity from 652 megawatts to 1.334

gigawatts, it said.

"Government initiatives to promote solar and wind power are crucial for Taiwan to conduct energy transition, phase out energy power, and develop green energy industries," Hsu Kuo-yung, a spokesman for the Taiwan Cabinet, said at a news conference.

The government has a long-range goal of reaching 4.2 gigawatts of installed wind power by 2025, and that could spur investment from the private sector worth 613.5 billion Taiwan dollars ($20.4 billion), said the Ministry of Economic Affairs.

Taiwan President Tsai Ing-wen, since her inauguration in May 2016, has called for generating one-fifth of Taiwan's total power from renewable energy by 2025, as part of an effort to phase out nuclear power.

Taiwan hopes to increase its total sustainable energy capacity to 27 gigawatts by 2025, including 20 gigawatts from solar energy, 4.2 gigawatts from wind energy, and the remaining from biomass, geothermal energy, hydropower and hydrogen energies.

Italy Switches on Five New Subsidy-Free Solar Power Plants

Posted June 01, 2017, 11:39 A.M. ET

By Jessica Shankleman

Octopus Investments Ltd. started generating power from five subsidy-free solar plants in Italy in the latest sign that clean-energy can be profitable without government support.

The plants have a two-year fixed power price agreement in place with Italian power trader Green Trade SA, said Matt Setchell, head of renewable energy investments at Octopus, in a phone call. The plants are located in the Montalto di Castro region of Italy and have a combined capacity of 63 megawatts. Panels were supplied by Canadian Solar Inc.

"Renewable power doesn't always need the government," Setchell said. "It's being driven by demand, rather than subsidy."

Globally, solar prices have fallen by 62 percent since 2009, with every part of the supply chain trimming costs. That's help cut risk premiums on bank loans, and pushed manufacturing capacity to record levels. By 2025, solar may be cheaper than using coal on average around the globe, according to Bloomberg New Energy Finance.

Europe currently has a handful of subsidy-free solar plants, located in Spain and Italy, according to Lara Hayim, at the London-based researcher. Those projects do run the risk of "cannibalizing" themselves by producing large volumes of solar energy, that in turn, can depress the high wholesale power prices that the projects rely upon, she said.

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Energy and Climate Report

To: Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
From: Morning Energy
Sent: Fri 9/15/2017 2:07:02 PM
Subject: POLITICO's Morning Energy: Unfilled vacancies still worry GOP senators — Trump, Scott still doubt climate change post-hurricanes — EPA to reconsider coal ash regulation

By Anthony Adragna | 09/15/2017 10:00 AM EDT

With help from Alex Guillén

GOP STILL ANXIOUS OVER AGENCY VACANCIES: President Donald Trump's administration has been more active in recent weeks in formally nominating people to host of vacant energy and environmental posts throughout the federal government, but members of his party still aren't satisfied with the pace. In conversations with 10 GOP senators, most said there were still numerous vacancies hampering the president's ability to implement his agenda. Here's what a couple of them had to say:

- **John Barrasso, EPW chairman:** "The pace has picked up, and I'm encouraged by that. I still am looking forward to getting the nominations for the Bureau of Land Management, Fish & Wildlife [and] of course the National Park Service. So there are still some critical ones out there that need to come forward."

- **Shelly Moore Capito, another EPW member:** "I still think we have too many vacancies."

- **Jerry Moran, also on EPW,** said there are too many instances where senators can't find the right person at an agency because they haven't been nominated. "I'm pleased to see any movement, which we're seeing from the White House, in the nominations and I hope we can - without objections from Democrats - take up those nominations as they arrive."

- **Lisa Murkowski, Energy chairwoman,** cautioned that while the pace of names had increased recently, "we've got to get them through the whole process."

Carper raises concerns: EPW ranking member Tom Carper said in a statement EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt "must follow through with the answers he assured us he would provide during his own confirmation hearing before we move forward with additional nominees" after meeting with four nominees slated to have confirmation hearings next week. But Barrasso told ME "we're going to continue" to process nominations regardless of those concerns.

HAPPY MIDWAY POINT OF SEPTEMBER! I'm your host Anthony Adragna, and Meguire Whitney's Elizabeth K. Whitney was first to identify James K. Polk as our only speaker to ever become president. For today: What's the only current state where both senators share the same first name? Send your tips, energy gossip and comments to aadragna@politico.com, or follow us on Twitter @AnthonyAdragna, @Morning_Energy, and @POLITICOPro.

TRUMP SHRUGS OFF CLIMATE LINK TO HURRICANES: After visiting Florida on Thursday, Trump told reporters aboard Air Force One he saw no link between climate change and Hurricanes Harvey and Irma, which devastated much of the southern U.S., Pro's Emily

Holden reports. "We did have two horrific storms, epic storms," he said. "But if you go back into the '30s and '40s, and you go back into the Teens, you'll see storms that were very similar and even bigger, OK?"

Scott too: Even after twice touring the storm-ravaged Florida Keys this week, Florida Gov. Rick Scott still won't say if he believes man-made climate change is real, POLITICO Florida's Marc Caputo reports. "Clearly our environment changes all the time, and whether that's cycles we're going through or whether that's man-made, I wouldn't be able to tell you which one it is," the governor (and Trump's preferred Florida Senate candidate) said.

Two Superfund sites need work: EPA officials have now examined 30 of the 90 affected Superfund sites in Florida and concluded two of them in Jacksonville - Fairfax Wood Treating and U.S. Naval Air Station Cecil Field - require follow up work due to flooding in the area.

ANOTHER EPA RULE RECONSIDERED: Pruitt has granted separate petitions of AES Puerto Rico and the Utility Solid Waste Activities Group to reconsider aspects of the agency's 2015 coal ash regulation, Pro's Alex Guillén reports. USWAG asked that pending deadlines be pushed back and called for the rule to be changed in the wake of a December 2016 law changing the enforcement scheme, while AES' petition centered on how utilities could store the residue from coal-fired power generation on site. "In light of EPA's new statutory authority, it is important that we give the existing rule a hard look and consider improvements that may help states tailor their permit programs to the needs of their states, in a way that provides greater regulatory certainty, while also ensuring that human health and the environment remain protected," Pruitt said in a statement, referring to provisions in last year's water infrastructure law.

Environmentalists bashed the decision to reopen the rule, which took almost six years to develop, as endangering human health and the environment. "This decision is a galling giveaway to industrial polluters, even by this Administration's standards of pandering to industry at the expense of the public," Earthjustice attorney Lisa Evans said in a statement. They vowed to fight moves to undermine the regulation, though Pruitt's EPA is likely to ask a federal appeals court case with oral arguments currently scheduled for Oct. 17 be put on hold while it reconsiders the rule.

MINING INDUSTRY HEADED TO TRUMP HOTEL: The National Mining Association confirmed to ME a report in The Intercept that it will host its private conference next month at the Trump International Hotel in Washington. "We evaluated information from five different venues and this was the only venue able to accommodate a group of our size and our meeting requirements on our desired dates," a spokeswoman said. Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke is slated to address the group at the hotel.

SCIENCE PANEL WANTS FACE-TO-FACE WITH PRUITT: EPA's Science Advisory Board, the influential group of scientists who weigh in on key science issues, have invited Administrator Scott Pruitt to a meeting "to share your vision of the SAB's ongoing role in providing scientific advice and to hear about your priorities for the Environmental Protection Agency," according to a letter sent this week. The meeting will "allow for a dialog on how best

the SAB can work to ensure the highest quality science supports Agency's policies and decisions," wrote SAB Chair Peter Thorne. It's not unusual for administrators to appear before the SAB on occasion; Gina McCarthy, for example, spoke to SAB in April 2016.

Elephant in the room: EPA is currently taking public comment on 132 nominees for SAB. It has 48 slots, with 15 opening up at the end of the month. The current SAB is dominated by academics, but also has members from state agencies, private companies and environmental groups. Comments are due Sept. 28.

GOTTA START SOMEWHERE: The White House Council on Environmental Quality took the first step Thursday toward implementing Trump's August executive order aimed at speeding the environmental reviews of infrastructure projects with the release of a work plan, Pro's Emily Holden reports. Among the steps to come: Work with other groups to create a framework for the "One Federal Decision" process, coordination to identify high-priority projects and the issuance of guidance to speed the NEPA process.

LET'S GET TOGETHER? Murkowski told reporters Trump had invited her over for lunch last Friday, but she had to bow out due to a commitment in Alaska. She viewed the invite, though, as a sign that their relationship could be productive in the aftermath of her vote against health care legislation. (She wasn't sure if it was a solo invite.) "I don't think there's a sourness," she said. "If there were, I don't think he would continue to be engaging."

PERDUE STICKING WITH CLOVIS: Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue voiced his enthusiastic support for Sam Clovis' nomination to be USDA's top scientist hours after Senate Agriculture Chairman Pat Roberts suggested he would leave the fate of the controversial pick to the administration, Pro Agriculture's Helena Bottemiller Evich reports . "President Trump made a good choice in nominating Dr. Sam Clovis and he has my full support," Perdue said. Clovis has raised eyebrows for his climate skepticism and lack of scientific background, among other issues.

NEW YORK OPPOSES SOLAR TRADE PETITION: With just a week to go until the International Trade Commission votes on whether to slap imported solar products with steep tariffs, New York state added its voice to those opposing the petitions of Suniva and SolarWorld Americas Inc. "If the relief requested by the Petitioners were to be ultimately granted, New York State's residential, small commercial, and industrial-scale PV projects would all substantially contract or disappear," Richard Kauffman, the state's energy czar, wrote. "Rather than grow to 12,000 jobs by 2021, the industry would be able to support just half the number of jobs it supports today."

UTAH GOVERNOR: ZINKE INDICATED MONUMENT DOWNSIZING: Utah Gov. Gary Herbert told local reporters Thursday that Zinke had indicated to him that Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument was an "abuse of the Antiquities Act" and said he thought it should be carved up "into smaller monuments - two or three." In addition, Herbert said the "indication" on Bears Ears National Monument is it will be shrunk down. The Trump administration has not said when it plans to release Zinke's recommendations publicly, though rumblings are it could come as soon as today.

ICYMI: Democrats and taxpayer advocates are concerned industry has an outsized role on the 20-member advisory committee named by Zinke to review royalty rates that oil, natural gas and coal companies pay for access to federal land and water, Pro's Ben Lefebvre reports. The group includes five energy company representatives and six others members who hail from energy-friendly, GOP-led local governments, but critics say it lacks adequate public interest group or Democratic representation.

EPA TOP LAWYER NOMINEE REPRESENTED BASF, FORD, UTILITY: Matt Leopold, President Donald Trump's nominee for EPA general counsel, has represented several regulated companies in recent years, including a leading chemical manufacturer, automaker and utility, according to a financial disclosure posted by the National Law Journal. Leopold has been an attorney at the Tallahassee-based Carlton Fields since 2015, and his client roster, according to the disclosure, included chemical giant BASF, automaker Ford Motor Company and utility Florida Power & Light. Leopold also listed analysis firm Resource Environmental Solutions; Comanco Environmental Corporation, which builds containment systems; and sand miner Edgar Minerals. He was previously general counsel for the Florida Department of Environmental Protection. Leopold and other EPA nominees will get a hearing Wednesday.

WOTUS-LINKED JUDGE ADVANCES: North Dakota District Judge Ralph Erickson, who gained national attention (at least among energy watchers) when he placed the Obama administration's waters of the U.S. regulation on ice back in 2015, saw his nomination to 8th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals advance through the Senate Judiciary Committee on Thursday. The vote was 20-0. Democrat Heidi Heitkamp praised the action as "great news" following the hearing.

REPORT: RAPID ACTION NEEDED TO ADDRESS CLIMATE CHANGE: Limiting global temperature increases to less than 2 degrees Celsius cannot be done by reducing carbon dioxide emissions alone and additional action must be taken by 2020, according to a report and peer-reviewed paper out late Thursday from 33 climate policy experts. Policymakers must also drastically reduce short-lived super climate pollutants, such as HFCs and methane, by 2020 and undertake atmospheric carbon extraction. "Scientists have many ideas about how to reduce emissions, but they all agree on the urgency of strong and decisive action to remove carbon from the economy," California Gov. Jerry Brown said in a statement about the study.

MAIL CALL! WHAT'S THE DEAL WITH THOSE EPA CUTS? Six EPW Democrats, led by Carper, asked EPA in a Thursday letter to provide additional information on its intended workforce reductions. They expressed concern that implementing the Trump's administration already proposed cuts and "further White House direction to plan for additional longer term down-sizing would damage EPA's ability to carry out its Congressionally-mandated mission to protect public health and the environment."

DEMOCRATS FIGHT WOTUS REPEAL: Twenty-one members of the Senate Democratic caucus, led by Ben Cardin and Carper, urged Pruitt and the Army Corps of Engineers in a letter released Thursday to reconsider plans to scrap the Obama administration's Waters of the U.S. regulation. "For an administration to change the definition of what constitutes a water of the

United States almost immediately upon entering office creates more, not less, regulatory uncertainty," they wrote. "We need stability and certainty for our constituents to be safe and our economy to grow."

LAWSUIT CHALLENGES EFFICIENCY ROLLBACK: Democracy Forward, representing the Natural Resources Defense Council, filed a lawsuit Thursday challenging the Trump administration's decision to stay two provisions of a January air conditioning efficiency rule. The lawsuit argues the rule had already gone into effect when DOE issued the stay and that the agency failed to adequately explain its decision.

GROUP SLAMS TRUMP'S CHEMICALS NOMINEE: The Environmental Working Group released a report today arguing Michael Dourson, Trump's nominee to run EPA's chemicals division, has "consistently fought to weaken proposals to protect our families from dangerous chemicals, including chemicals linked to cancer, brain damage and reproductive harm." Read it here.

MORE SUPPORT FOR NORTHAM IN VIRGINIA: A broad array of liberal groups, including the Tom Steyer-backed Next Gen America and the Virginia League of Conservation Voters PAC, are joining forces in a $2 million campaign to boost Democratic Lt. Gov. Ralph Northam for governor, Pro Campaign's Kevin Robillard reports. The digital ads, which begin running this week through the election, aim to reach and turn out more than 1.2 million voters.

GREENS, SPORTSMEN TEAM UP: The Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation and the National Wildlife Federation have signed a memorandum of understanding in hopes of advancing wildlife conservation and access to public lands.

MOVER, SHAKER: Tracy Stone-Manning is the new associate vice president for public lands at the National Wildlife Federation. She was previously Montana Gov. Steve Bullock's chief-of-staff and before that his director of the Department of Environmental Quality.

Doug Little, an Arizona Corporation Commissioner, has accepted the position of deputy assistant secretary for intergovernmental and external affairs at DOE. "I have enjoyed serving Arizona and look forward to this tremendous opportunity to influence energy policy at the national level," he said in a statement. First elected in 2014 (more on that here), Little served as chairman of the commission last year and also joined the board of directors for the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners. He starts Oct. 2.

QUICK HITS

- EPA won't release benzene levels collected post-Harvey; private tests show elevated levels. Texas Tribune.

- Mexico court temporarily blocks higher ethanol in gasoline -activist. Reuters.

- EPA Will Let Houston Lab's Lease Expire In 2020, Agency Says. TPM.

- How to make $240,000 in 6 months by being friends with Rick Perry. Think Progress.

- Pennsylvania coal production up by 20 percent from 2016. Tribune-Review.

- North Korea conflict could cripple these oil and chemical facilities. CNBC.

- Floating Tar, Dead Fish: Oil Spill Threatens Greek Beaches. New York Times.

THAT'S ALL FOR ME!

To view online:
http://www.politico.com/tipsheets/morning-energy/2017/09/15/unfilled-vacancies-still-worry-gop-senators-222302

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To: Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
From: Morning Score
Sent: Fri 9/15/2017 2:06:42 PM
Subject: POLITICO's Morning Score: Upton readies Senate bid — FEC moves toward action on Russian Facebook ads — Corker gets primary challenger

By Kevin Robillard | 09/15/2017 10:00 AM EDT

With Zach Montellaro and Elena Schneider

The following newsletter is an abridged version of Campaign Pro's Morning Score. For an earlier morning read on exponentially more races - and for a more comprehensive aggregation of the day's most important campaign news - sign up for Campaign Pro today. (http://www.politicopro.com/proinfo)

NEXT MAN UPTON - "Upton takes steps toward Senate run," by Campaign Pro's Daniel Strauss and Kevin Robillard: "Rep. Fred Upton (R-Mich.) is inching closer toward running for Senate in 2018, sounding out potential allies and donors about a race against Democratic Sen. Debbie Stabenow and garnering attention with a major 'Upton 2018' fundraiser at a state Republican conference next weekend. The veteran Republican has not made a final decision - according to an aide, his timetable for deciding whether to run statewide is sometime this fall - and Upton has also been the subject of retirement rumors this month after three other GOP members called it quits, including fellow Michigan Rep. Dave Trott. But talks about a possible Senate run have gained momentum, according to people who have spoken to Upton. ... Upton set off a new round of speculation about his intentions this week, when he invited donors to a campaign fundraiser featuring Gov. Rick Snyder and all of Michigan's Republican congressmen next weekend during the Mackinac Republican Leadership Conference. Republicans close to Upton said the event's purpose was to show unity within Michigan's ideologically mixed GOP delegation. Upton himself leans toward the moderate side of the delegation, with a Heritage Action vote rating of 37 percent and a Club for Growth vote score of 54 percent - the lowest among Michigan Republicans. ... Snyder's office did not directly respond to questions about whether the governor would support Upton if he ran for Senate." **Full story. And here's the invite.**

NOT RUSSIAN TO CONCLUSIONS - "FEC takes first step towards action on Russian Facebook ads," by Campaign Pro's Maggie Severns: "The Federal Election Commission voted unanimously on Thursday to gather testimony from experts and outsiders on whether it should make new rules regulating online political advertising, a first step in response to the recent news that Russian nationals bought Facebook ads during the 2016 elections. The commissioners have been debating what to do about foreign election interference for months, and they were spurred by Facebook's recent disclosure that a Russian company had purchased $100,000 worth of ads during the election. The news provided direct evidence there was Russian interference in the election in the form of online advertising, which is overseen by the FEC. ... The FEC took similar steps last fall, but the effort stalled during the winter when the commission postponed - and then never rescheduled - a planned meeting on online advertising disclosure." **Full story.**

DAILY ROLL TIDE - A Senate Leadership Fund poll from GOP pollster Jan van Lohuizen has the Alabama primary election in a dead heat. The poll has former state Supreme Court Justice Roy Moore at 41 percent with Sen. Luther Strange just 1 point behind with 40 percent. **More from the Washington Examiner's David Drucker.**

- "Senate candidate Roy Moore this year suggested 9/11 might have been punishment for US turning away from God," by CNN KFile's Andrew Kaczynski and Nathan McDermott: "Moore, a hardline conservative running against fellow Republican and incumbent Sen. Luther Strange in a runoff primary race, made the comments in February during a speech at the Open Door Baptist Church, a video reviewed by CNN's KFile shows. Moore, the former chief justice of Alabama, quotes verses from the Old Testament's Book of Isaiah, which have been used by some fringe elements of Christianity to suggest that the Bible prophesied the attacks. ... Later in the same speech, Moore suggested God was upset at the United States because 'we legitimize sodomy' and 'legitimize abortion.'" **Full story.**

- "Roy Moore, Luther Strange agree to debate with no moderator," by AL.com's Howard Koplowitz. Full story.

PRIMARY CONCERNS - "Conservative activist Andy Ogles launches U.S. Senate bid for seat held by Bob Corker," by The Tennessean's Joel Ebert and David Boucher: "'Over the past several months it has become increasingly clear that too many of our elected officials in Washington are failing our country, failing to fulfill their promises, and failing our future,' Ogles said in a news release. ... Ogles, a Tennessee native who lives in Franklin, most recently served as the head of Americans For Prosperity in Tennessee. The Koch-funded organization led the charge to successfully derail expansion of Medicaid in Tennessee, but Ogles lost a very public fight against Gov. Bill Haslam's gas tax this year." **Full story.**

Days until the 2017 election: 54.

Days until the 2018 election: 418.

Thanks for joining us! You can email tips to the Campaign Pro team at sbland@politico.com, eschneider@politico.com, krobillard@politico.com, dstrauss@politico.com and mseverns@politico.com.

You can also follow us on Twitter: @politicoscott, @ec_schneider, @politicokevin, @danielstrauss4 and @maggieseverns.

PRIMARY CONCERNS, CONT. - "Senator Kamala Harris, darling of progressives, says she'd support a Feinstein re-election bid '100 percent,'" by Carla Marinucci in Oakland, Calif.: "In a robust defense of Dianne Feinstein, her embattled Democratic colleague, Sen. Kamala Harris said Thursday that she would back the state's senior U.S. senator '100 percent' should Feinstein decide to run again in 2018, calling her a tireless fighter for 'California values.' 'I am a strong supporter of Dianne, and if she decides to run again I will be front and center in supporting her - and for lots of good reasons,' Harris told POLITICO on Thursday. 'I may not agree with her on everything. But I admire and respect her. ... I do strongly believe that she is

one of the greatest public servants that California has had.'" **Full story.**

- Daily Kos Elections' David Nir weighs in against the possibility of a convention in the VA-10 Democratic primary: "Well, this is garbage. ... A vigorous primary will engage voters and compel all the candidates to get their campaigns operating at full capacity-a crucial shakedown test. By contrast, switching to a convention would deprive voters of a chance to make their voices heard and would (quite fairly, for once) open the local Democratic Party up to charges that the process is indeed "rigged." It would also yield a nominee who's spent months talking to just a handful of convention delegates rather than to the broader electorate, which is a recipe for producing a weak candidate (just ask Kansas Republicans how they felt about Ron Estes). And since a primary would be held in June, that would give the winner plenty of time to regroup for the general election campaign against Comstock. Party leaders are set to make a final decision in November, but there's only one choice that's right, both for Democrats and democracy: a primary." **Full story.**

- "NRCC: 'No indication' White House will intervene in GOP primaries," by Kelsey Tamborrino: "There is 'no indication' that the White House will intervene in House GOP primaries, a top National Republican Congressional Committee official said on Thursday. 'Our job is to protect our members in the primary,' said Joe Pileggi, the NRCC's political director, during POLITICO's inaugural Pro policy summit. 'We have a great relationship with the White House.' ... Pileggi said the idea of Trump intervening in the House field was 'hypothetical,' adding that 'there is no indication that is happening.' He also said Trump's sinking poll numbers wouldn't hurt Republican House candidates." **Full story.**

OL' VIRGINNY - Poll finds Northam needs to improve with voters of color: A survey released Thursday by BlackPAC and Brilliant Corners Research and Strategies found Democratic Lt. Gov. Ralph Northam was trailing Gov. Terry McAuliffe's performance with voters of color in the state. Fifty-nine percent of voters of color backed Northam, and while just 15 percent backed Republican Ed Gillespie, another 15 percent were undecided. A polling memo warns that the Democratic ticket needs to do more to encourage black voters to turn out, and specifically notes black women are trailing in vote likelihood, although Latino voters indicated they are more likely to turn out. The poll also found a majority of voters of color feel under attack in 2017 and also believe voting in November can send a message. **Full polling memo here.**

THE DAILY MENENDEZ - "New Jersey poll: Only 20 percent want Menendez reelection," by Campaign Pro's Kevin Robillard: "Just one in five New Jerseyans believe Democratic Sen. Bob Menendez deserves reelection next year, according to a new Quinnipiac University poll. Menendez's approval rating is just 31 percent, with 49 percent disapproval. An even 50 percent of registered voters think Menendez, who is on trial for bribery, does not deserve reelection. That number includes 41 percent of Democrats, 61 percent of Republicans and half of independents. At the same time, voters do not want unpopular GOP Gov. Chris Christie - whose approval rating is just 16 percent, with 79 percent disapproval - to select Menendez's replacement if he resigns or is removed from office. Republicans are hoping to gain a Senate seat by forcing Menendez from office and allowing Christie to select a replacement. A mere 3 percent of respondents want Christie to appoint himself, 24 percent want him to appoint

someone else, and 68 percent want him to wait for a new governor to make an appointment. Even a narrow majority of Republicans want to wait for a new governor to make the pick. Democrat Phil Murphy, a former ambassador and investment banker, has a healthy lead over GOP Lt. Gov. Kim Guadagno in the governor's race." **Full story.**

- "Prosecutors question timing of flight reimbursements," by Politico New Jersey's Matt Friedman: "U.S. Sen. Robert Menendez did not reimburse his friend, Florida eye doctor Salomon Melgen, for two round-trip flights on his private jet until a reporter started asking questions, according to testimony presented in federal court on Thursday. The prosecution introduced a November 1, 2012 email from Washington Post reporter Paul Kane, asking about a trip to the Dominican Republican that had surfaced in news reports just days before the senator was to stand for re-election." **Full story.**

2018 WATCH - Susie Lee enters NV-03 race: Democrat Susie Lee, who lost a 2016 primary bid for Nevada's 4th District, is jumping into the race to replace Rep. Jacky Rosen. Lee was initially recruited to run for this seat last year, but she opted for the crowded primary in the more Democratic-leaning neighboring district. Last cycle, Lee loaned her campaign more than $650,000, and she told The Nevada Independent that she planned to once again invest in a campaign. Several Republicans are already in the race, including state Sen. Scott Hammond and and former Assemblywoman Victoria Seaman.

WAY, WAY, WAY DOWN THE BALLOT - "Inside Danica Roem's Historic Campaign as a Transgender Woman in Trump's America," by Cosmopolitan's Rebecca Nelson: A profile of Danica Roem, who's running for the Virginia legislature as a Democrat and, if elected, would be the first "openly transgender person elected and seated to a state legislature." **Read more here.**

QUOTE OF THE DAY: "He likes us. He likes me, anyway." - Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer presumably speaking about his relationship with Trump on a hot mic picked up by C-SPAN.

To view online:
http://www.politico.com/tipsheets/morning-score/2017/09/15/upton-readies-senate-bid-222309

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To: Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
From: POLITICO
Sent: Thur 6/1/2017 6:38:56 PM
Subject: BREAKING NEWS: White House tells supporters it will exit Paris deal

Administration officials began spreading the word this afternoon to congressional staffers and conservative groups that President Donald Trump will pull out of the Paris climate agreement, according to multiple sources.

Officials held separate conference calls with representatives from influential conservative groups and congressional chiefs of staff. They also distributed talking points arguing that the 2015 agreement is a bad deal for America.

But the officials offered few details about precisely what Trump plans to announce in the Rose Garden later today, and how the withdrawal from the pact would be carried out, conservative activists said.

Read more: http://www.politico.com/story/2017/06/01/white-house-tells-supporters-it-will-exit-paris-deal-239029

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To: Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
From: Morning Transportation
Sent: Fri 9/15/2017 2:02:38 PM
Subject: POLITICO's Morning Transportation: Let's get ready to (regulatory) rumble — Waymo: Way to go, policymakers — Collins: PFC cap hike in spending bill possibly 'too high'

By Brianna Gurciullo | 09/15/2017 10:00 AM EDT

With help from Lauren Gardner, Tanya Snyder and Adrienne Hurst

REG RUMBLE: An advisory panel tasked with recommending FAA rules to axe voted Thursday to suggest the repeal or modification of dozens of regulations, including one requiring pilots to have 1,500 hours of flight time before flying commercial airliners, Lauren reports. Specifically, the report sanctions a proposal by regional airlines to allow additional ways for prospective pilots to get credit for those hours beyond the military and two-year or four-year college approaches - namely by letting the airlines provide the academic training, so long as FAA determines they're safe. Pros are well aware that this issue has bogged down progress on the Senate's long-term FAA bill (S. 1405 (115)).

Forcing the issue: The dissenters at the heated Aviation Rulemaking Advisory Committee meeting took issue with the recommendation itself and the process by which it and others were being presented to federal regulators as an ARAC product, considering the report includes several dissenting opinions on that issue alone. Other members acknowledged it wasn't necessarily a consensus document, but noted that groups represented on the panel (which was only tasked with the job in April) can oppose any changes to rules that may come down the line later.

For your reading pleasure: We snagged a copy of the report for Pros who want to dig into the 53 other recommendations made. But FYI, this version doesn't reflect the fact that ARAC amended the cover letter to remove a paragraph that called each proposal "a valid opportunity for the FAA to pursue." The rest of the report stayed untouched.

ANOTHER WEEK DONE: Thanks as always for tuning in to POLITICO's Morning Transportation, your daily tipsheet on all things trains, planes, automobiles and ports. Be sure to send tips, feedback and lyrics my way: bgurciullo@politico.com or @brigurciullo.

"Show stoppin' at the latest bar / The ride shinin' with the open top / Hydraulics make our heads go nod / Hair blowin' in the breeze / Yo, we superstars." (h/t Madison Forker)

GET LISTENING: Follow MT's playlist on Spotify. What better way to start your day than with songs (picked by us and readers) that are all about flying, driving, commuting and sailing?

WAYMO LIKE IT: Waymo CEO John Krafcik lauded lawmakers and the Trump administration Thursday recent moves on self-driving vehicles. Krafcik said many unresolved issues make him lose sleep, but that "we're off to a good start" when it comes to policy. "The approach seems to be sensible, and I think folks understand that this is something very important," Krafcik said at Thursday's POLITICO Pro Policy Summit.

Who's buying it? A recent POLITICO/Morning Consult poll showed 51 percent of registered voters aren't in riding in a self-driving car much less buying one. Still, Krafcik said consumer adoption is a "solvable" problem. "Roughly speaking, about half of Americans are OK with the idea of a self-driving car and about half are in some fashion skeptical," Krafcik said. "From our point of view, that's pretty good because most folks haven't tried a car yet."

Let's share: Krafcik also said he expected self-driving cars to be used in shared-mobility fleets - not just as a stepping stone toward full private ownership, but perhaps as a replacement for it. "We have our cars sitting, parked idly, about 95 percent of the time," he said. "It's sort of an astonishing level of capital inefficiency." More efficient use of cars could open up a tremendous amount of space in cities, he said, since there are four parking spaces reserved for every car in the U.S. "Imagine giving that back ... turning parking spaces into parks, more affordable housing," he said.

ON THE TABLE: House Ways and Means Chairman Kevin Brady is "open" to incorporating funding for infrastructure investment into a tax overhaul, he told reporters following his talk at the POLITICO Pro Summit on Thursday. "We'll continue the discussion with the White House and other members that would like to see that as part of it," Brady said. But the Texas Republican also made clear that infrastructure isn't his priority at the moment. Tanya has more for Pros.

COME TOGETHER? ICYMI, Trump met Wednesday with moderate House Dems to chat about a tax overhaul and other issues. "When Democrats asked him to use hundreds of billions of dollars generated from tax reform to rebuild the nation's bridges and roads, Trump did not rule it out," POLITICO's Rachael Bade and Josh Dawsey report. "Nodding to his top economic adviser, Gary Cohn, he said his advisers believe a standalone tax bill is the best way to get something done - but if that gets stuck, maybe they could reconsider." Check out the story.

HERE'S WHAT I'M THINKING: The chairman of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee laid out his priorities for an infrastructure package in a Washington Times op-ed this week. Sen. John Barrasso (R-Wyo.) wrote that lawmakers must "make sure we are listening to rural communities and giving them an equal seat at the table as we address infrastructure." While private financing may work well for cities, rural and less populated areas "may need to rely more on public financing," Barrasso wrote. He added that any package "must also address commonsense ways to speed up Washington's bureaucracy."

Weighing in: Rural and agriculture interests sent a letter this week to Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue calling for "significant investment ... in transportation infrastructure, specifically in U.S. inland waterways and rural roads and bridges." The group, called the Rebuild Rural Coalition, argued for more public-private partnerships.

LET'S GET MOVING: The Council on Environmental Quality unveiled a plan Thursday for accelerating environmental approvals for infrastructure projects. As Pro Energy's Emily Holden reports, CEQ promised to recommend ways to quicken the NEPA process and to collaborate with OMB, the Federal Permitting Improvement Steering Council, DOT and the Army Corps of

Engineers.

DONE AND DUSTED: The House approved a package of fiscal 2018 spending bills Thursday that "stands no chance of making it through the Senate in its current form," Jen Scholtes reports. That package includes the bills that fund DHS and DOT.

OPEN TO NEGOTIATION: Meanwhile, in the upper chamber, Sen. Susan Collins (R-Maine) told reporters Thursday that she is "certainly willing to take a look" again at how much the Senate's fiscal 2018 DOT spending bill would hike the cap on PFCs. The bill (S. 1655 (115)) would push up the cap from $4.50 to $8.50 for originating airports. "It may be that it's too high," Collins said. "But there has been very strong support from airports citing their infrastructure needs. And there was no objection in committee."

TWEET DU JOUR: "Tesla Semi truck unveil & test ride tentatively scheduled for Oct 26th in Hawthorne. Worth seeing this beast in person. It's unreal." - Elon Musk (@elonmusk)

TRUMP WANTS A SCOTT VS. NELSON SHOWDOWN: Trump on Thursday pressed Florida Gov. Rick Scott to take on Sen. Bill Nelson (D-Fla.) in next year's election. "I don't know what he's gonna do, but I know that at a certain point it ends for you, and we can't let it end," Trump said about Scott while in Fort Myers, Fla., which was hit by Hurricane Irma. "So I hope he runs for Senate." It's not the first time Trump has said that Scott should run against the Commerce Committee's top Democrat. POLITICO's Nolan D. McCaskill has more.

OUT-OF-HAND OTAs: DOT and the FAA wield the power to use "other transaction agreements," but they "lack clear, comprehensive policies to adequately manage" them, DOT's Office of Inspector General found. The FAA uses OTAs, for example, to staff airports not owned by the federal government with air traffic controllers. But according to the IG, poor oversight has resulted in over-payment of recipients, unnecessary spending and even unaddressed wasp infestations at some of those airports. The IG's report, which includes 17 recommendations, is here.

BY THE NUMBERS: DOT is out with airline cancellation and arrival stats for July. Hawaiian Airlines, Alaska Airlines and Delta Air Lines had the best rates of on-time arrivals that month. JetBlue Airways, American Airlines and Spirit Airlines had the worst. Meanwhile, ExpressJet Airlines, Spirit and JetBlue had the highest cancellation rates in July. Delta, Hawaiian and Virgin America had the lowest.

MT MAILBAG: General aviation groups sent letters to Senate Commerce and House Transportation leaders this week calling for an FAA extension that lasts at least six months. They also ask lawmakers to eliminate Shuster's air traffic control plan from the House's FAA bill (H.R. 2997 (115)) "to allow completion of comprehensive, bipartisan, long-term FAA reauthorization."

SHIFTING GEARS: Paul Dorsey, a former legislative aide to Rep. Dan Lipinski (D-Ill.), is the National Automobile Dealers Association new manager of legislative affairs, our friends at POLITICO Influence report.

THE AUTOBAHN:

- "Amtrak debuts new marketing campaign amid years of flat ridership levels." CNBC.

- "Alphabet considers Lyft investment of about $1 billion." Bloomberg.

- "Cruise ships steer clear of Irma's wake." Wall Street Journal.

- "Menendez trial: Prosecutors question timing of flight reimbursements." POLITICO New Jersey.

- "Samsung makes a $300 million push into self-driving cars." The Verge.

- "Portland probe finds Uber used software to evade 16 government officials." Reuters.

- "Hurricane Irma: 1,000 more Florida flights canceled through Saturday." USA Today.

THE COUNTDOWN: DOT appropriations run out in 85 days. The FAA reauthorization expires in 16 days. Highway and transit policy is up for renewal in 1,112 days.

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http://www.politico.com/tipsheets/morning-transportation/2017/09/15/lets-get-ready-to-regulatory-rumble-222310

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Subject: Sep. 15 -- EHS State Regulatory Alert



EHS State Regulatory Alert

September 15, 2017 - Number 178

You can create a report customized by topic, jurisdiction, and date range by using the Regulatory Summaries Report Tool. The report can be generated in Excel, Word, or PDF.

Florida

GENERAL ENVIRONMENT AND SAFETY
Electric Power Plant Siting Act Newspaper Notices
Florida GENERAL ENVIRONMENT AND SAFETY

Final rule of the Department of Environmental Protection amends regulations under FAC 62-17.281 to update templates for newspaper notice requirements for regulated entities under the Electric Power Plant Siting Act. The rule addresses forms for notices of intent, applications, written agreements, land use, certification, modification of certification, supplemental applications, and hearings related to the various stages. The rule is effective Sept. 27, 2017. Contact: Ann Seiler; DEP, Division of Air Resource Management; 850-717-9113; Ann.Seiler@dep.state.fl.us

—Florida Administrative Weekly (09/12/2017)

Regulatory Update

Iowa

WATER
Wastewater Construction and Operation Permits/Industrial Activity Stormwater Discharges
Iowa WATER

Proposed rule of the Environmental Protection Commission amends regulations under 567 IAC 64.15 regarding wastewater construction and operation permits. The rule reissues for an additional five years three National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System general permits that authorize stormwater discharges associated with industrial activity (NPDES general permit No. 1); industrial activity for construction activities (NPDES general permit No. 2); and industrial activity from asphalt plants, concrete batch plants, rock crushing plants, and construction sand and gravel facilities (NPDES general permit No. 3). Permit No. 2 is being revised to include

updates to federal effluent requirements for construction and development point sources under 40 CFR 450.21, including a requirement regarding soil stabilization. Permit No. 3 is being revised to clarify an existing prohibition on the discharge of vehicle washwaters. A hearing is scheduled for Oct. 10, 2017, in Des Moines. Comments are due Oct. 18, 2017. Contact: Joe Griffin; Department of Natural Resources; 515-725-8417; joe.griffin@dnr.iowa.gov

—Iowa Administrative Bulletin (09/13/2017)

Regulatory Update

WATER
Wastewater Construction and Operation Permits/Private Sewage Disposal Systems
Iowa WATER

Proposed rule of the Environmental Protection Commission amends regulations under 567 IAC 64.15 regarding wastewater construction and operation permits. The rule reissues for an additional five years National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System general permit No. 4. The permit authorizes discharges from private sewage disposal systems, including sand filters, other media filters, and aerobic treatment units, that will reach a designated water of the state or a subsurface drainage tile. A hearing is scheduled for Oct. 3, 2017, in Des Moines. Comments are due Oct. 18, 2017. Contact: Daniel Olson; Department of Natural Resources; 515-725-8404; daniel.olson@dnr.iowa.gov

—Iowa Administrative Bulletin (09/13/2017)

Regulatory Update

New Hampshire

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS TRANSPORTATION
Hazardous Materials Transportation
New Hampshire HAZARDOUS MATERIALS TRANSPORTATION

Interim final rule of the Department of Safety adopts regulations under NHAR Saf-C 601, 602, 603.03, 604, and 605 regarding hazardous materials transportation standards. The rule incorporates by reference federal standards under 10 CFR 71 and 73, 49 CFR 170 through 185, and 49 CFR 390 through 397. The rule addresses requirements for inspection of hazardous cargoes, reports, and tactical site supervision. The rule also addresses hazardous and radioactive incident and accident notification requirements. The rule is effective Aug. 31, 2017, and expires Feb. 27, 2018. Contact: Keith Lohmann; Department of Safety; 603-223-3852; Keith.lohmann@dos.nh.gov

—New Hampshire Rulemaking Register (09/14/2017)

Regulatory Update

HAZARDOUS WASTE MANAGEMENT
Underground Storage Tanks/Primary Containment System Testing

New Hampshire HAZARDOUS WASTE MANAGEMENT

Final rule of the Department of Environmental Services amends regulations under NHAR Env-Or 406.24 regarding test methods for underground storage tank (UST) primary containment systems. The rule requires owners of diesel-dispensing USTs to use either the test method under NHAR Env-Or 406.11 or the pressure decay testing method specified under NHAR Env-Or 504.10, under certain circumstances, no later than Dec. 22, 2017, and triennially thereafter. The rule also validates any pressure decay testing done on or after April 15, 2016. The provisions currently are in effect as an emergency rule. The rule is effective Aug. 19, 2017. Contact: Michael Juranty; DES, Oil Compliance Section; 603-271-3645; Michael.Juranty@des.nh.gov

—New Hampshire Rulemaking Register (09/14/2017)

Regulatory Update

WATER
Certification of Water Works Operators
New Hampshire WATER

Final rule of the Department of Environmental Services amends and renumbers regulations under NHAR Env-Dw 502.01 through .29 (nonconsecutive) and adopts regulations under NHAR Env-Dw 502.05 and .06 regarding certification of water works operators. The rule adds and updates requirements for applications, certification, education, primary operators, training providers, and notices of expiration. The rule also clarifies provisions and updates definitions. The rule is effective Aug. 19, 2017. Contact: Holly Green; DES; 603-271-3114; Holly.Green@des.nh.gov

—New Hampshire Rulemaking Register (09/14/2017)

Regulatory Update

WATER
Youth Recreation Camps
New Hampshire WATER

Final rule of the Department of Environmental Services amends and renumbers regulations under Env-Wq 900.01 through 909.03 (nonconsecutive) regarding licensing of youth recreation camps. The rule requires camps that are served by a public water system (PWS) to perform separate water quality testing if the PWS was in violation of its bacteria or nitrate monitoring at the time the camp's application was submitted. The rule also updates and clarifies provisions. The rule is effective Sept. 1, 2017. Contact: Debra Sonderegger; DES; 603-271-2862; Debra.Sonderegger@cies.nh.gov

—New Hampshire Rulemaking Register (09/14/2017)

Regulatory Update

New Mexico

WATER

Active Water Resource Management/Nambé-Pojoaque-Tesuque Water Master District

New Mexico WATER

Final rule of the Office of the State Engineer adopts regulations under NMAC 19.25.20 regarding active water resource management for the Nambé-Pojoaque-Tesuque Water Master District. The rule establishes the duties and authority of the district water master as to the use and administration of groundwater and surface water for Pueblo and non-Pueblo water rights. The rule also establishes requirements for the conveyance of groundwater rights, expedited permitting for changes in points of diversion and places of use to the county water utility, and new domestic well points of diversion. In addition, the rule provides for a connection fund for the costs of connecting to the county water utility and establishes requirements for reporting for lands to be irrigated, determinations of historic beneficial use, the mitigation fund, and well permitting and applications. Finally, the rule provides for the determination of interference and offsets by the water master resulting from the exercise of Pueblo water rights and establishes procedures for reimbursement for the effects of impairment to non-Pueblo groundwater rights as determined by the water master. The rule is effective Sept. 12, 2017. Contact: Felicity Strachan; Office of the State Engineer; 505-827-3989; felicity.strachan@state.nm.us

—New Mexico Register (09/12/2017)

Regulatory Update

Tennessee

HAZARDOUS WASTE MANAGEMENT

Hazardous Waste Management

Tennessee HAZARDOUS WASTE MANAGEMENT

Notice of the Department of Environment and Conservation, Division of Solid Waste Management, announces an additional 75-day stay of the effective date for a May 15, 2017, final rule that amends regulations under RRT 0400-12-01-.01 through -.09 (nonconsecutive) regarding hazardous waste management to incorporate revisions to federal standards, as of April 17, 2015. The rule adds and revises definitions related to solid waste and variances, deletes provisions regarding the comparable fuels exclusion and gasification exclusion, and modifies and clarifies the procedure for verifying reclaimers and intermediate facilities managing hazardous secondary materials. The rule also includes in the list of regulated hazardous waste those wastes generated primarily from processes that support the combustion of coal or other fossil fuels that are co-disposed with excluded fly ash waste, bottom ash waste, slag waste and flue gas emission control waste generated primarily from the combustion of coal or other fossil fuels. In addition, the rule adds new exclusions for specified hazardous secondary materials that have been reclaimed and/or transferred, revises permitting procedures, and adds new container and tank management standards and emission standards. Finally, the rule adds emergency preparedness and response requirements. The rule now is effective Jan. 4, 2018. Contact: Jackie Okoreeh-Baah; DEC, Division of Solid Waste Management; 615-532-0825; Jackie.Okoreeh-Baah@tn.gov

—Tennessee Administrative Register (09/13/2017)

Regulatory Update

HAZARDOUS WASTE MANAGEMENT
Hazardous Waste Management
Tennessee HAZARDOUS WASTE MANAGEMENT

Notice of the Department of Environment and Conservation, Division of Solid Waste Management, announces an additional 75-day stay of the effective date for a May 15, 2017, final rule that amends regulations under RRT 0400-12-01-.02, -.05 and -.10 to add a common chemical name 1,1,1-trichloroethane to the U226 list of commercial chemical products. The rule also updates language regarding the exclusion of comparable fuel and syngas fuel to conform to federal standards. In addition, the rule replaces the CAS number 137-30-4 with "NA" under waste code K161 in the Treatment Standards for Hazardous Wastes table and corrects a typographical error to the process description to K107. The rule now is effective Jan. 4, 2018. Contact: Jackie Okoreeh-Baah; DEC, Division of Solid Waste Management; 615-532-0825; Jackie.Okoreeh-Baah@tn.gov

—Tennessee Administrative Register (09/13/2017)

Regulatory Update

Texas

PESTICIDES
Classification of Pesticides/Warfarin
Texas PESTICIDES

Notice of the Department of Agriculture announces the withdrawal of an April 14, 2017, proposed rule that would have amended regulations under 4 TAC 7.30 to classify the active ingredient warfarin, when used as a feral hog toxicant, as a state-limited-use pesticide. The rule also would have restricted the purchase, use, and distribution of warfarin to licensed pesticide applicators or individuals working under direct supervision of licensed applicators. The withdrawal is effective Aug. 30, 2017. Contact: Philip Wright; TDA, Agriculture and Consumer Protection Division; 512September 08, 2017-463-5706; TDATopics@TexasAgriculture.gov

—Texas Register (09/15/2017)

Regulatory Update

Vermont

OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH
VOSHA Rules for Recording and Reporting Occupational Injuries and Illnesses
Vermont OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH

Final rule of the Department of Labor amends the VOSHA rules for recording and reporting occupational injuries and illnesses. The rule requires annual electronic submission of injury and illness information (Forms 300A, 300 and 301) that employers are already required to submit due

to federal requirements under 29 CFR 1904, addressing establishments with 250 or more employees, establishments with 20 or more employees but fewer than 250, and employers electronically submitting information upon notification. The rule also specifies that employers must inform employees of their right to report work-related injuries and illnesses and prohibits discriminating against employees for reporting. The rule is effective Sept. 12, 2017. Contact: Daniel Whipple; Department of Labor; 802-828-5084; dan.whipple@vermont.gov

—Vermont Regulations (09/12/2017)

Regulatory Update

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EHS State Regulatory Alert

To: Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
From: POLITICO Pro Energy Whiteboard
Sent: Thur 6/1/2017 6:00:07 PM
Subject: DOE approves funding for more ARPA-E projects

By Darius Dixon

06/01/2017 01:56 PM EDT

The Energy Department announced today that it finalized $20 million in funding for 10 projects under its Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy program that were initially approved under the Obama administration.

DOE said it was "honoring additional commitments" and using the money to round out the approval process for projects selected as part of ARPA-E's Next-Generation Energy Technologies for Connected and Automated On-Road Vehicles program and Renewable Energy to Fuels Through Utilization of Energy-Dense Liquids program.

DOE had approved a trio of projects last month, lifting the hold it had placed on the program's projects.

NEXTCAR projects aim to reduce vehicle energy consumption by 20 percent, while REFUEL projects will use water, molecules from the air and electricity from renewable sources to produce high-energy liquid fuels.

President Donald Trump's 2018 budget proposal called for eliminating ARPA-E entirely. But lawmakers approved an omnibus funding package at the beginning of May that increased ARPA-E's budget through September by $15 million, to a total of $306 million.

WHAT'S NEXT: Congressional appropriators are expected to address government funding — and Trump's fiscal 2018 budget proposal — this summer.

To view online:
https://www.politicopro.com/energy/whiteboard/2017/06/doe-approves-funding-for-more-arpa-e-projects-088505

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Yes, very	Somewhat	Neutral	Not really	Not at all

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This email was sent to jackson.ryan@epa.gov by: POLITICO, LLC 1000 Wilson Blvd. Arlington, VA, 22209, USA

To: Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
From: Bloomberg BNA
Sent: Fri 9/15/2017 12:27:53 PM
Subject: Sep. 15 -- EHS Federal Regulatory Alert



EHS Federal Regulatory Alert

September 15, 2017 - Number 178

You can create a report customized by topic, jurisdiction, and date range by using the Regulatory Summaries Report Tool. The report can be generated in Excel, Word, or PDF.

Summaries

AIR
California/PSD Final Determination
AIR

Notice of the EPA announces the issuance of a prevention of significant deterioration (PSD) nonapplicability final determination to Tesoro Refining & Marketing Co., of Ashburn, Wash., issued on June 20, 2017, for further integration of its Carson and Wilmington facilities (the Los Angeles Refinery Integration and Compliance Project) in the South Coast Air Basin in California. The project consists of shutting down and modifying certain units and constructing new units to physically connect the two refineries to improve efficiency and comply with the EPA's tier 3 gasoline regulations. The agency has determined that the project is not a major PSD modification. Contact: La Weeda Ward; EPA Region 9, Permits Office; 213-244-1812; ward.laweeda@epa.gov. Citations: 40 CFR 52.21

82 FR 43359 (09/15/2017)

Regulatory Update

AIR
Iowa SIP, Section 111(d) Plan, and Operating Permits Program
AIR

Direct final rule of the EPA approves revisions to the Iowa SIP, the Section 111(d) plan, and the operating permits program. The revisions address provisions concerning the measurement of emissions, the prevention of air pollution emergency episodes, and permit rescission for prevention of significant deterioration permits. The revisions also incorporates by reference amendments to the fine particulate matter (PM-2.5) NAAQS, clarify that landfills must meet both size and weight requirements, and clarify exemptions regarding construction permitting and fuel-burning equipment. In addition, the revisions add indirect cooling to the description of fuel-burning equipment that may be classified as an insignificant activity and clarify that facilities that submitted a Title V application with a previously submitted annual emissions inventory are not required to resubmit the inventory. Finally, the revisions delete previously rescinded provisions

and update titles, definitions, and references. The rule is effective Nov. 14, 2017, unless adverse comments are received by Oct. 16, 2017. Contact: Heather Hamilton; EPA Region 7, Air Planning and Development Branch; 913-551-7039; hamilton.heather@epa.gov. Citations: 40 CFR 52.280; 62.3913; 70, Appendix A

82 FR 43303 (09/15/2017)

Regulatory Update

AIR
Iowa SIP, Section 111(d) Plan, and Operating Permits Program
AIR

Proposed rule of the EPA approves revisions to the Iowa SIP, the Section 111(d) plan, and the operating permits program. The revisions address provisions concerning the measurement of emissions, the prevention of air pollution emergency episodes, and permit rescission for prevention of significant deterioration permits. The revisions also incorporates by reference amendments to the fine particulate matter (PM-2.5) NAAQS, clarify that landfills must meet both size and weight requirements, and clarify exemptions regarding construction permitting and fuel-burning equipment. In addition, the revisions add indirect cooling to the description of fuel-burning equipment that may be classified as an insignificant activity and clarify that facilities that submitted a Title V application with a previously submitted annual emissions inventory are not required to resubmit the inventory. Finally, the revisions delete previously rescinded provisions and update titles, definitions, and references. A concurrent direct final rule adopts the changes, effective Nov. 14, 2017. Comments are due Oct. 16, 2017. Contact: Heather Hamilton; EPA Region 7, Air Planning and Development Branch; 913-551-7039; hamilton.heather@epa.gov. Citations: 40 CFR 52.280; 62.3913; 70, Appendix A

82 FR 43315 (09/15/2017)

Regulatory Update

AIR
Minnesota/Operating and Construction Permits
AIR

Notice of the EPA announces the issuance of federal operating permits to Great Lakes Gas Transmission LP, NRG Reliability Solutions LLC, and Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community of Minnesota (SMSC). The permits address three natural gas compressors at the Cloquet Compressor Station No. 5, on the Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indian Reservation in Cloquet, Minn.; four diesel-fired generators at the Treasure Island Resort & Casino, on the Prairie Island Indian Community in Red Wing, Minn.; and 14 nonemergency internal combustion engines at Mystic Lake Casino Hotel, on land held in trust for the SMSC in Prior Lake, Minn. The notice also announces the issuance of a federal operating permit and a federal construction permit to Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures for three nonemergency internal combustion engines at the Grand Casino Hinckley, on land held in trust for the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe in Hinckley, Minn. Contact: Paymon Danesh; EPA Region 5; 312-886-6219; danesh.paymon@epa.gov

82 FR 43359 (09/15/2017)

Regulatory Update

AIR
U.S. Virgin Islands/Solid Waste Incineration Unit Negative Declaration
AIR

Direct final rule of the EPA approves a negative declaration for the U.S. Virgin Islands for other solid waste incineration units. The negative declaration, which addresses very small municipal waste combustion units and institutional waste incineration units, certifies that there are no designated facilities subject to emissions guidelines currently operating in the territory. The rule is effective Nov. 14, 2017, unless adverse comments are received by Oct. 16, 2017. Contact: Edward Linky; EPA Region 2, Air Programs Branch; 212-637-3764; Linky.Edward@epa.gov. Citations: 40 CFR 62.13358

82 FR 43307 (09/15/2017)

Regulatory Update

AIR
U.S. Virgin Islands/Solid Waste Incineration Unit Negative Declaration
AIR

Proposed rule of the EPA approves a negative declaration for the U.S. Virgin Islands for other solid waste incineration units. The negative declaration, which addresses very small municipal waste combustion units and institutional waste incineration units, certifies that there are no designated facilities subject to emissions guidelines currently operating in the territory. A concurrent direct final rule adopts the changes, effective Nov. 14, 2017. Comments are due Oct. 16, 2017. Contact: Edward Linky; EPA Region 2, Air Programs Branch; 212-637-3764; Linky.Edward@epa.gov. Citations: 40 CFR 62.13358

82 FR 43316 (09/15/2017)

Regulatory Update

GENERAL ENVIRONMENT AND SAFETY
Colorado/Mewbourn 3 Residue East Pipeline
GENERAL ENVIRONMENT AND SAFETY

Notice announces the intention of FERC to prepare an environmental assessment for the Mewbourn 3 Residue East Pipeline in Weld County, Colo. The project, proposed by DCP Operating Co., of Denver, involves the construction of 8.4 miles of 20-inch diameter natural gas pipeline to provide about 253 million dekatherms of natural gas per day to an interconnect with Colorado Interstate Gas Co.'s High Plains System. Comments are due Oct. 6, 2017. Contact: FERC, Office of External Affairs; 866-208-3676; FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov

82 FR 43346 (09/15/2017)

Regulatory Update

GENERAL ENVIRONMENT AND SAFETY
Determination Concerning Safety and Effectiveness

GENERAL ENVIRONMENT AND SAFETY

Notice of the FDA announces a determination that 31 drugs were not withdrawn from sale for reasons of safety or effectiveness. The determination allows the FDA to approve abbreviated new drug applications for the products if all other legal and regulatory requirements are met. Contact: Stacy Kane; FDA, Center for Drug Evaluation and Research; 301-796-8363; Stacy.Kane@fda.hhs.gov

82 FR 43388 (09/15/2017)

Regulatory Update

GENERAL ENVIRONMENT AND SAFETY
Determination Concerning Safety and Effectiveness/Timoptic
GENERAL ENVIRONMENT AND SAFETY

Notice of the FDA announces a determination that Timoptic (timolol maleate ophthalmic solution), 0.25 percent and 0.5 percent, held by Aton Pharma Inc. of Lawrenceville, N.J., was not withdrawn from sale for reasons of safety or effectiveness. The determination provides that the FDA will not begin procedures to withdraw approval of abbreviated new drug applications (ANDAs) that refer to the drug product and will allow the FDA continue to approve ANDAs that refer to the product if relevant legal and regulatory requirements are met. Contact: Robert Fastenau; FDA, Center for Drug Evaluation and Research; 240-402-4510

82 FR 43384 (09/15/2017)

Regulatory Update

GENERAL ENVIRONMENT AND SAFETY
EPA Human Studies Review Board/Request for Nominations
GENERAL ENVIRONMENT AND SAFETY

Notice of the EPA announces a request for nominations for candidates with expertise in the area of bioethics and statistics to serve on its Human Studies Review Board. The board provides advice and recommendations to the EPA on the scientific and ethical aspects of research with human subjects, including research proposals and protocols that include human subjects, reports of completed research with human subjects, and how to strengthen agency programs for protection of human subjects of research. Nominations are due Oct. 16, 2017. Contact: Thomas O'Farrell; EPA, Office of the Science Advisor; 202-564-8451; ofarrell.thomas@epa.gov

82 FR 43358 (09/15/2017)

Regulatory Update

GENERAL ENVIRONMENT AND SAFETY
Environmental Impact Statements
GENERAL ENVIRONMENT AND SAFETY

Notice of the EPA announces the availability of environmental impact statements filed Sept. 4-8, 2017. Contact: Kelly Knight; EPA, Office of Federal Activities; 202-564-2141; knight.kelly@epa.gov. Citations: 40 CFR 1506.9

82 FR 43359 (09/15/2017)

Regulatory Update

GENERAL ENVIRONMENT AND SAFETY
Indexing of New Animal Drugs for Minor Species
GENERAL ENVIRONMENT AND SAFETY

Notice of the FDA announces the availability of a draft guidance for industry on the process for adding new animal drugs to the Index of Legally Marketed Unapproved New Animal Drugs for Minor Species. The index lists new animal drugs intended for use in nonfood-producing minor species that have been approved through an alternative FDA review process. Comments are due Nov. 14, 2017. Contact: Dorothy Bailey; FDA, Center for Veterinary Medicine; 240-402-0565; dorothy.bailey@fda.hhs.gov. Citations: 21 CFR 516, Subpart C

82 FR 43381 (09/15/2017)

Regulatory Update

GENERAL ENVIRONMENT AND SAFETY
Louisiana/Natural Gas Storage Caverns
GENERAL ENVIRONMENT AND SAFETY

Notice of FERC announces the receipt of an application from Perryville Gas Storage LLC, of Houston, for authorization to amend the certificate for natural gas storage caverns in Franklin and Richland parishes in Louisiana. The applicant proposes to revise the requirements of Engineering Condition No. 5 by replacing periodic sonar surveys with a proposed well and cavern integrity monitoring program. The notice specifies that the commission will complete an environmental assessment or issue a notice of schedule for environmental review by Dec. 4, 2017. Comments are due Sept. 20, 2017. Contact: FERC, Office of External Affairs; 866-208-3676; FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov

82 FR 43349 (09/15/2017)

Regulatory Update

GENERAL ENVIRONMENT AND SAFETY
Louisiana/Patterson System
GENERAL ENVIRONMENT AND SAFETY

Notice of the FERC announces the receipt of applications from Kinetica Deepwater Express LLC and Kinetica Energy Express LLC, both of Houston, regarding the Patterson System located in Louisiana and in state and federal waters of the Gulf of Mexico. Kinetica Deepwater Express seeks authorization to abandon by sale to Kinetica Energy of approximately 192 miles of pipeline; five offshore platforms; and measurement, separation, and dehydration facilities. Kinetica Energy seeks authorization to acquire, own, and operate facilities and approval of the incremental initial rates and revised tariff under which the applicant will provide open-access and nondiscriminatory natural gas transportation services. The agency will complete an environmental assessment or issue a notice of schedule of environmental review by Dec. 6, 2017. Comments are due Sept. 28, 2017. Contact: FERC, Office of External Affairs; 866-208-3676;

FercOnlineSupport@ferc.gov

82 FR 43351 (09/15/2017)

Regulatory Update

GENERAL ENVIRONMENT AND SAFETY
Medical Device Premarket Approval Applications
GENERAL ENVIRONMENT AND SAFETY

Notice of the FDA announces the approval of two medical device premarket approval applications and the availability of related safety and effectiveness summaries for the period Oct. 1, 2016, through June 30, 2017. The devices include Hologic Inc.'s Aptima HIV-1 Quant Assay and Roche Diagnostics' Elecsys HIV Combi-PT. There were no denial actions during this period. Comments are requested, but a due date is not specified. Contact: Jonathan McKnight; FDA, Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research; 240-402-7911

82 FR 43385 (09/15/2017)

Regulatory Update

GENERAL ENVIRONMENT AND SAFETY
Microneedling Devices
GENERAL ENVIRONMENT AND SAFETY

Notice of the FDA announces the availability of a draft guidance for industry that describes when a microneedling product is considered a device under the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act. The guidance also clarifies the regulatory pathway to market for microneedling devices, which include an array of needles, "micro-protrusion" tips, or pins that can be blunt or sharp and of varying lengths. The guidance does not address microneedling combination products, acupuncture needles, hypodermic needles or other needles for injection, tattoo machine needles, and needle probes that emit or deliver any type of energy to a patient. Comments are due Nov. 14, 2017. Contact: Peter Yang; FDA, Center for Devices and Radiological Health; 301-796-6477

82 FR 43383 (09/15/2017)

Regulatory Update

GENERAL ENVIRONMENT AND SAFETY
Net Energy Metering/Costs and Benefits
GENERAL ENVIRONMENT AND SAFETY

Notice of the Energy Department requests information regarding the costs and benefits of net energy metering to utilities, ratepayers, and the electrical grid. The agency seeks input on information and existing studies from 2012 to the present concerning motivations and policy contexts for conducting cost-benefit studies, categories of costs and benefits, methodological issues when quantifying factors considered in the benefit-cost analysis, drivers and underlying market conditions that cause differing outcomes in results, and emerging issues. Comments are due Oct. 30, 2017. Contact: Kate Marks; DOE, Office of Energy Policy and Systems Analysis; 202-586-9842; Kate.Marks@hq.doe.gov

82 FR 43345 (09/15/2017)

Regulatory Update

GENERAL ENVIRONMENT AND SAFETY
New York/Beech Hill Storage Field, Shongo Field
GENERAL ENVIRONMENT AND SAFETY

Notice of FERC announces the filing of an application by National Fuel Gas Supply Corp., of Williamsville, N.Y., for a certificate of public convenience and necessity authorizing the use of Well 7451 on an interim basis for up to three years in order to withdraw storage gas to test the extent of communication between the Beech Hill Storage Field and the Shongo Field in Allegany County, N.Y. The agency will complete an environmental assessment or issue a notice of schedule of environmental review by Dec. 5, 2017. Comments, protests, and motions to intervene are due Sept. 27, 2017. Contact: FERC, Office of External Affairs; 866-208-3676; FercOnlineSupport@ferc.gov

82 FR 43350 (09/15/2017)

Regulatory Update

GENERAL ENVIRONMENT AND SAFETY
Nonprescription Drugs Advisory Committee Charter Renewal
GENERAL ENVIRONMENT AND SAFETY

Notice of the FDA announces the renewal of the charter for the Nonprescription Drugs Advisory Committee until Aug. 27, 2019. The committee reviews and evaluates data concerning the safety and effectiveness of over-the-counter human drug products and any other FDA-regulated product and advises the commissioner on the issuance of monographs establishing conditions where such drugs are generally recognized as safe and effective or on the approval of new drug applications for such drugs. The committee also serves as a forum for the exchange of views regarding the prescription and nonprescription status of these various drug products and combinations thereof and may conduct peer review of agency-sponsored intramural and extramural scientific biomedical programs. Contact: Moon Hee Choi; FDA, Center for Drug Evaluation and Research; 301-796-9001; NDAC@fda.hhs.gov

82 FR 43388 (09/15/2017)

Regulatory Update

GENERAL ENVIRONMENT AND SAFETY
Ohio/Lowell Lock and Dam Water Power Project
GENERAL ENVIRONMENT AND SAFETY

Notice of FERC announces the filing of a hydroelectric application for the Lowell Lock and Dam Water Power Project on the Muskingum River in Washington County, Ohio. The applicant, Clean River Power MR-2 LLC, a subsidiary of Free Flow Power Corp., of Boston, requests an amendment to the license for the unconstructed project to change the location of the project works from the north side to the south side of the dam and to address a tailrace channel and partially submerged 69-kilovolt transmission line. Comments, motions to intervene, and protests are due Oct. 10, 2017. Contact: Joseph Fayyad; FERC; 202-502-8759; mo.fayyad@ferc.gov

82 FR 43348 (09/15/2017)

Regulatory Update

GENERAL ENVIRONMENT AND SAFETY
Performance Characteristics of In Vitro Diagnostic Devices for the Detection of HPV
GENERAL ENVIRONMENT AND SAFETY

Notice of the FDA announces the availability of a guidance for industry to provide recommendations to facilitate study designs to establish in vitro diagnostic device performance characteristics for the detection, or detection and differentiation, of human papillomaviruses (HPV). The guidance is limited to studies intended to establish the performance characteristic of in vitro diagnostic HPV devices used in conjunction with cervical cytology for cancer screening or as first-line primary cervical cancer screening devices. The guidance provides the FDA's recommendations for three types of cervical cancer screening modalities without any assertions on which screening method is preferred. HPV testing from noncervical specimens or quantitative or semi-quantitative assays for HPV are not addressed. Comments may be submitted at any time. Contact: Natalia Comella; FDA, Center for Devices and Radiological Health; 301-796-6226; Natalia.Comella@fda.hhs.gov

82 FR 43386 (09/15/2017)

Regulatory Update

GENERAL ENVIRONMENT AND SAFETY
Tennessee Valley Authority/Tellico Reservoir, Rarity Pointe Development
GENERAL ENVIRONMENT AND SAFETY

Notice of the Tennessee Valley Authority announces an amendment to a September 2003 record of decision for the final environmental impact statement regarding the Rarity Pointe Commercial Recreation and Residential Development on the Tellico Reservoir in Loudon and Monroe counties in Tennessee. The amendment incorporates the approval of Alternative B, addressed in a July 2017 final supplemental environmental impact assessment to authorize a Section 26a permit to install riprap shoreline stabilization, two irrigation water intakes, a stormwater outfall, and a park in replacement of the previously planned par 3 golf course. The amendment is in response to a request by WindRiver Management LLC, of Lenoir City, to modify the original development plan. Contact: Amy Henry; TVA; 865-632-4045; abhenry@tva.gov

82 FR 43448 (09/15/2017)

Regulatory Update

GENERAL ENVIRONMENT AND SAFETY
Utilizing Animal Studies to Evaluate Organ Preservation Devices
GENERAL ENVIRONMENT AND SAFETY

Notice of the FDA announces the availability of a draft guidance for industry to provide best practices recommendations for utilizing animal studies for the evaluation of organ preservation devices. The guidance provides clarity on premarket recommendations to develop animal transplant models for organ preservation technologies, which will streamline the initiation of

clinical studies and bring novel organ preservation devices to the market faster. Comments are due Nov. 14, 2017. Contact: Elizabeth Kunkoski; FDA, Center for Devices and Radiological Health; 301-796-6439

82 FR 43390 (09/15/2017)

Regulatory Update

HAZARDOUS WASTE CLEANUP
Brownfields/All Appropriate Inquiries
HAZARDOUS WASTE CLEANUP

Final rule of the EPA revises the standards and practices for conducting all appropriate inquiries under CERCLA for establishing the innocent landowner defense and qualifying for the bona fide prospective purchaser and contiguous property owner liability protections. The rule incorporates by reference the updated ASTM International Standard E2247-16 regarding the Phase I Environmental Site Assessment Process for Forestland or Rural Property. The rule is effective March 14, 2018. Contact: Patricia Overmeyer; EPA, Office of Brownfields and Land Revitalization; 202-566-2774; overmeyer.patricia@epa.gov. Citations: 40 CFR 312.11

82 FR 43310 (09/15/2017)

Regulatory Update

HAZARDOUS WASTE CLEANUP
Brownfields/All Appropriate Inquiries
HAZARDOUS WASTE CLEANUP

Notice of the EPA announces the withdrawal of a June 20, 2017, direct final rule (82 FR 28009) to revise the standards and practices for conducting all appropriate inquiries under CERCLA. The rule would have incorporated by reference ASTM International Standard E2247-16 regarding the Phase I Environmental Site Assessment Process for Forestland or Rural Property. The withdrawal, which is due to receipt of an adverse comment, is effective Sept. 15, 2017. A concurrent final rule responds to the comment and adopts the revisions. Contact: Patricia Overmeyer; EPA, Office of Brownfields and Land Revitalization; 202-566-2774; overmeyer.patricia@epa.gov. Citations: 40 CFR 312.11

82 FR 43309 (09/15/2017)

Regulatory Update

HAZARDOUS WASTE MANAGEMENT
Ohio/Hazardous Waste Management Program
HAZARDOUS WASTE MANAGEMENT

Proposed rule of the EPA would grant final authorization of revisions to the Ohio hazardous waste program under RCRA. The revisions include state-initiated changes that require treatment, storage, and disposal facilities to comply with authorized state permitting requirements instead of equivalent federal requirements. Comments are due Oct. 16, 2017. Contact: Gary Westefer; EPA Region 5; 312-886-7450; westefer.gary@epa.gov. Citations: 40 CFR 271

82 FR 43316 (09/15/2017)

Regulatory Update

PESTICIDES
Pesticide Product Registrations
PESTICIDES

Notice of the EPA announces the receipt of nine applications to register new uses for pesticide products containing currently registered active ingredients. The applications by various companies are for one fungicide, three herbicides, one insecticide, one nematicide, and two plant regulator products proposed for use on various agricultural products. The applications also include one materials preservative. Comments are due Oct. 16, 2017. Contact: Michael Goodis; EPA, Office of Pesticide Programs; 703-305-7090; RDFRNotices@epa.gov

82 FR 43356 (09/15/2017)

Regulatory Update

PESTICIDES
Pesticide Product Registrations/New Active Ingredients
PESTICIDES

Notice of the EPA announces the receipt of nine applications to register pesticide products containing active ingredients not included in any currently registered products. The applications, submitted by PBI/Gordon Corp., of Kansas City, Mo., and International Animal Health Products Pty Ltd., of Huntingwood, Australia, are for seven herbicides for use on turf and two microbial pesticides to be fed to grazing animals. Comments are due Oct. 16, 2017. Contact: Robert McNally; EPA, Office of Pesticide Programs; 703-305-7090; BPPDFRNotices@epa.gov

82 FR 43357 (09/15/2017)

Regulatory Update

PESTICIDES
Pesticide Tolerance Petitions
PESTICIDES

Notice of the EPA announces the receipt of initial filings of petitions to establish new and amended tolerances and exemptions for residues of certain pesticides in or on various food commodities. The notice includes 17 filings for new and amended tolerances and tolerance exemptions for inerts and noninerts. Comments are due Oct. 16, 2017. Contact: Robert McNally; EPA, Office of Pesticide Programs; 703-305-7090; BPPDFRNotices@epa.gov. Citations: 40 CFR 180

82 FR 43352 (09/15/2017)

Regulatory Update

TOXIC SUBSTANCES

Products Containing Organohalogen Flame Retardants
TOXIC SUBSTANCES

Notice of the Consumer Product Safety Commission announces a meeting to consider a petition (80 FR 50238; 08/09/2015) requesting a rulemaking to declare several categories of products containing additive organohalogen flame retardants to be "banned hazardous substances." The petition was filed by Earthjustice and the Consumer Federation of America and joined by various parties. The meeting is scheduled for Sept. 20, 2017, in Bethesda, Md., and via webcast. Contact: Rockelle Hammond; CPSC, Office of the Secretary; 301-504-7923. Citations: 16 CFR 1500

82 FR 43339 (09/15/2017)

Regulatory Update

WATER
Pennsylvania/Public Values for Water Quality in the Susquehanna River Basin
WATER

Notice announces the intention of the U.S. Geological Survey to seek OMB approval for a new information collection request regarding a survey of public values for changes in water quality in the Susquehanna River Basin in Pennsylvania. The collection consists of a survey of private households' river uses, perceptions, and the economic value of improved water quality. The survey is intended to improve the ways communities address the allocation of scarce resources and clarify trade-offs between alternative outcomes. Comments are due Nov. 14, 2017. Contact: Rudy Schuster; USGS; 970-226-9165

82 FR 43399 (09/15/2017)

Regulatory Update

WATER
Perchlorate in Drinking Water Peer Review
WATER

Notice of the EPA announces the availability of an interim list of 12 peer review candidates and draft charge questions for a second peer review of materials in support of development of a national primary drinking water regulation for perchlorate. The peer review will consider a draft report on proposed approaches to inform the derivation of a maximum contaminant level goal (MCLG) for perchlorate in drinking water and revisions to the biologically based dose-response (BBDR) model and model report following the first peer review in January 2017 (81 FR 87553; 12/05/2016). The EPA seeks relevant information or documentation that should be considered to evaluate the candidates. A concurrent notice announces the availability of the draft MCLG approaches report. Comments are due Oct. 6, 2017. Contact: Michael Shapiro; EPA, Office of Water; 202-564-5700; shapiro.mike@epa.gov

82 FR 43361 (09/15/2017)

Regulatory Update

WATER
Perchlorate in Drinking Water Peer Review/MCLG Approaches Report

WATER

Notice of the EPA announces the availability of a draft report on proposed approaches to inform the derivation of a maximum contaminant level goal (MCLG) for perchlorate in drinking water. The report will be considered during a second peer review in support of the development of a national primary drinking water regulation for perchlorate. The report describes revisions to the biologically based dose-response (BBDR) model and model report for perchlorate in drinking water following the first peer review in January 2017 (81 FR 87553; 12/05/2016). A concurrent notice requests comments on an interim list of peer review candidates and draft charge questions for the peer review. Comments are due Oct. 30, 2017. Contact: Samuel Hernandez; EPA, Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water; 202-564-1735; Hernandez.Samuel@epa.gov

82 FR 43354 (09/15/2017)

Regulatory Update

WATER
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Regulatory Reform
WATER

Notice of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers announces an extension of the comment period for a July 20, 2017, notice (82 FR 33470) concerning a review by the Corps' task force on regulatory reform of regulations that may be appropriate for repeal, replacement, or modification under Executive Order 13777 (82 FR 12285; 03/01/2017). The task force is reviewing regulations that address issues including navigation, flood control, emergency supplies of drinking water, aquatic plant control, environmental review procedures, water resources policies, and permitting in navigable waters. Comments now are due Oct. 18, 2017. Contact: Mary Coulombe; USACE; 202-761-1228; mary.j.coulombe@usace.army.mil. Citations: 32 CFR 644, 33 CFR 203 through 385, 36 CFR 312 through 331

82 FR 43314 (09/15/2017)

Regulatory Update

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EHS Federal Regulatory Alert

To: Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
From: InsideEPA.com
Sent: Fri 9/15/2017 11:13:57 AM
Subject: The Morning Headlines from InsideEPA.com -- September 15, 2017

TRUMP'S EPA: Agency at a crossroads -- Complete coverage

September 15, 2017

Latest News

TSCA Reporting Rule Negotiations Collapse, Forcing EPA To Begin Again

Even before a final meeting slated for October, a negotiated rulemaking panel convened to inform a future EPA rule to reduce reporting burdens for certain chemicals' uses has broken down after members agreed they would not reach a required consensus recommendation.

Judges Doubt EPA's Defense In Ozone NAAQS Rule 'Backsliding' Fight

A three-judge panel of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit at Sept. 14 oral argument appeared skeptical of EPA's defense for fighting environmentalists' claim that its rule for how states should implement the 2008 ozone standard unlawfully allows “backsliding,” or weakening of existing air pollution controls.

EPA Grants Ash Rule Reconsideration, Seeks Delay For Suits Over Policy

EPA is formally granting utilities' request to reconsider parts of the Obama-era Resource Conservation & Recovery Act (RCRA) coal ash rule and will soon ask a federal appeals court to delay oral argument schedule for next month in consolidated lawsuits filed by environmentalists and the power sector over the same regulatory provisions.

CCS Backers Cite Finances As Main Hurdle, Despite GOP Fears About NSR

Several supporters of carbon capture and storage (CCS) technologies told Congress that the predominant hurdle to greater deployment of the greenhouse gas controls is high up-front installation costs, though Republican senators are seeking to play up EPA's new source review (NSR) air permitting regulations as another key problem.

Pruitt Faces Challenges Replacing Departing CASAC, SAB Members

With appointments for numerous EPA science advisors expiring at the end of the month, Administrator Scott Pruitt faces challenges selecting new members to the agency's Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee (CASAC) and Science Advisory

Board (SAB), selections that could intensify criticism over the administration's scientific views.

Congress' Intent Bars CWA Permits For Groundwater, VEPCO Appeal Says

A power company is urging a federal appeals court to overturn a district court ruling extending Clean Water Act (CWA) permit mandates to some groundwater releases, warning the decision violates Congress' intent in crafting the water law and could unduly expand the law's reach -- at odds with a Supreme Court opinion on the issue.

D.C. Circuit To Hear Oral Argument In Long-Running Suit Over Boiler MACT

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit will hear oral argument Sept. 15 in one of the last remaining lawsuits over EPA's boiler maximum achievable control technology (MACT) air toxics rule, focusing on the issue of whether the agency erred in using carbon monoxide (CO) to set emissions limits in the rule.

Daily Feed

Groups ask IG to investigate EPA's grants review appointee

The groups say delegating responsibility for grants to an official in EPA's public affairs office raises “serious concerns about the integrity of the grantmaking process.”

Senators seek details on EPA staff cuts, reorganization efforts

Six Senate Democrats ask EPA chief Scott Pruitt for a host of documents to “evaluate the impact of the ongoing and planned personnel cuts.”

Bodine's interim role at EPA sparks Senate battle

We will “not consent to any time agreement to process Bodine’s nomination until she responds fully” to our letter, two Democratic senators say.

House approves FY18 spending bill with EPA cuts, policy riders

An array of program cuts and riders in the bill is sparking blowback from environmental groups as well as Democrats who are suggesting the package has little chance of becoming law.

Quote-Unquote: Does climate change impact hurricanes?

Plus: the latest on the administration's deregulatory moves and support for extending ‘environmental rights’ push.

Ewire: Senate gears up to consider slate of EPA nominees

A Senate panel schedules a confirmation hearing on four EPA nominees while two

Democrats block floor consideration of another.

New York 'environmental rights' bill sparks industry fears

Industry lawyers say the amendment could be broadly interpreted to authorize citizen suits against private companies, but an existing constitutional provision may alter its ultimate impact.

Read all the latest EPA news, analysis and documents →

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To: Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
From: Anna Palmer Jake Sherman Daniel Lippman
Sent: Tue 11/21/2017 5:45:43 PM
Subject: Playbook Power Briefing, presented by the Peter G. Peterson Foundation: BREAKING: CHARLIE ROSE fired from CBS -- TRUMP chats with PUTIN -- CONYERS says he is not aware of any settlements -- FIRST IN PLAYBOOK: Pence's first round of political contributions

View online version | Add politicoplaybook@politico.com to your address book.

Today's Playbook Power Briefing presented by the Peter G. Peterson Foundation

By JAKE SHERMAN (sherman@politico.com; @JakeSherman), ANNA PALMER (anna@politico.com; @apalmerdc), DANIEL LIPPMAN (daniel@politico.com; @dlippman) and ZACH MONTELLARO (zmontellaro@politico.com; @ZachMontellaro)

PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP and **VLADIMIR PUTIN** spoke on the phone about Syria, Iran, North Korea and Ukraine, per the AP.

Good Tuesday afternoon. AP'S COREY WILLIAMS: "DETROIT (AP) -- Longtime Michigan Rep. John Conyers on Tuesday denied settling a complaint in 2015 from a woman who alleged she was fired from his Washington staff because she rejected his sexual advances. ... Conyers, who answered the door at his Detroit home, told The Associated Press that he knows nothing about any claims of inappropriate touching and learned of the story from television just hours earlier.

"'I have been looking at these things in amazement ,' he said, referring to allegations of sexual harassment and assault being made against politicians and others." http://bit.ly/2B2aZ2R

-- JOHN BRESNAHAN and **HEATHER CAYGLE:** "House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi was not aware of any settlement, according to her office. Other top Democrats, including Congressional Black Caucus members, declined to comment. 'You gotta wait to see what the CBC says,' said a Democratic source. 'You gotta think there will be calls for resignation soon.' ... 'This is a huge, huge problem for us,' said an aide to one longtime Democrat. 'I don't know how Pelosi is going to handle this.'" http://politi.co/2jbacFF

BREAKING -- @DylanByers: "CBS News President David Rhodes emails staff: 'A short time ago we terminated Charlie Rose's employment with CBS News, effective immediately.'" ***Link to David Rhodes' email to CBS News staff:*** http://politi.co/2z97abr

-- @yashar: "When asked if he has anything to say to the women who have accused him of 'wrongdoings,' Charlie Rose responds and says: 'It's not wrongdoings.'" http://bit.ly/2zW2N7k

EXCLUSIVE -- VP MIKE PENCE'S FIRST ROUND OF POLITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS --

GOVERNORS: $1,000 -- Jim Justice (W.Va.). $10,000 -- Scott Walker (Wis.). $10,000 -- Kim Reynolds (Iowa). $5,000 -- Paul Laxalt (Nev.). $10,000 -- Rick Scott (Fla.). **SENATE:** $5,400 to Sens. David Perdue (Ga.), Tom Cotton (Ark.), John Barrasso (Wyo.) and Ted Cruz (Texas). ...

... **HOUSE:** $5,400 to Reps. Chris Collins (N.Y.), Buddy Carter (Ga.), Scott DesJarlais (Tenn.), Blaine Luetkemeyer (Mo.), Kevin Cramer (N.D.), Tom Reed (N.Y.), Lou Barletta (Pa.), Mark Amodei (Nev.), Andy Barr (Ky.), Mike Kelly (Pa.), Bill Shuster (Pa.), Jimmy Duncan (Tenn.), Andy Harris (Md.), Diane Black (Tenn.), Michael Burgess (Texas), Chuck Fleischmann (Tenn.), Alex Mooney (W.Va.), Steven Palazzo (Miss.), Phil Roe (Tenn.), Marsha Blackburn (Tenn.), Ron DeSantis (Fla.), Mark Meadows (N.C.), Jim Jordan (Ohio) and Mark Walker (N.C.). ...

... SENATE CANDIDATES: Josh Hawley (Mo.) ... **HOUSE CANDIDATES:** Rick Saccone (candidate for Tim Murphy's seat in Pennsylvania).

-- COUNT 'EM: Seven donations to House Freedom Caucus members.

QUICK NOTE ... RNC has $42.5 million on hand. The DNC has $5 million.

SPOTTED: JAMIE DIMON and **KEVIN PLANK** walking out of the Seasons restaurant at the Four Seasons Georgetown this morning after getting coffee together.

ATTN. JARED KUSHNER: "SENIOR ABBAS ADVISER: CONTACTS WITH U.S. CONSULATE, VISITING AMERICAN OFFICIALS HAVE BEEN FROZEN: Palestinians say they won't be blackmailed by U.S. move to close Washington office ... Palestinians reject Trump team's reasons for threatening closure of DC PLO office," by the Jerusalem Post's Adam Rascon: "The Palestinians have frozen ties with the U.S. Consulate in Jerusalem and American officials visiting the West Bank in response to the U.S. State Department's decision not to renew the certification of the PLO's representative office in Washington, D.C., a senior adviser to PA President Mahmoud Abbas said on Tuesday. ...

"'Communications with the consulate in Jerusalem and meetings between American and Palestinian officials in Palestine are currently frozen because of the decision not to renew the PLO office in Washington's certification,' Majdi al-Khalidi, Abbas's diplomatic affairs adviser told The Jerusalem Post in a phone call. 'This is temporary until they clarify to us, if the office is closed or open. If they tell us the office is closed, we will continue to freeze our communications.'" http://bit.ly/2jLzLkh

THE LEGISLATIVE TEXT OF THE SENATE TAX BILL -- Posted today by the Senate Finance Committee http://bit.ly/2zapMb8

ON THE WORLD STAGE -- "Robert Mugabe Resigns as Zimbabwe's President, Ending 37-Year Rule," by NYT's Norimitsu Onishi and Jeffrey Moyo in Harare: "Robert Mugabe, who has ruled Zimbabwe since independence in 1980, resigned as president

on Tuesday shortly after lawmakers began impeachment proceedings against him, according to the speaker of Parliament. The speaker of Parliament read out a letter in which Mr. Mugabe said he was stepping down 'with immediate effect' for 'the welfare of the people of Zimbabwe and the need for a peaceful transfer of power.'

"Parliament erupted into cheers and jubilant residents poured into the streets of Harare, the capital. It seemed to be an abrupt capitulation by Mr. Mugabe, who had refused to step down only two days earlier, when his former political party, ZANU-PF, formally expelled him." http://nyti.ms/2z9T2Pj

****** **A message from the Peter G. Peterson Foundation:** As Washington debates tax reform, there's talk of tax cuts that will give trillions of dollars back to American taxpayers. That sounds great. But if these tax cuts aren't paid for, future generations will be stuck with the bill. Congress, tax reform should grow the economy. Not the debt. www.pgpf.org/tax-reform. ******

DOWN IN ALABAMA -- "The DSCC has descended on Alabama to help Doug Jones fight Roy Moore," by Vice News' Alexandra Jaffe: "The [DSCC], the party's campaign arm tasked with supporting Democrats in Senate races, has had a team of what an aide described to VICE News as 'less than a handful of staff' in Alabama since the GOP runoff in September, all working under the direction of the campaign. In a statement, the Jones campaign was also careful to emphasize that they were running the show." http://bit.ly/2B1RN5j

THE PRESIDENT'S THANKSGIVING -- "Trump's return to Mar-a-Lago: No pepper spray, pocket knives or laser pointers," by Darren Samuelson: "President Donald Trump returns to his private Palm Beach club Tuesday for the first time since April, and several of his dues-paying members said they plan on making a beeline there in the hopes of catching a glimpse of the president or even chatting him up over the holiday weekend, including an extravagant Thanksgiving buffet. ... Members at the exclusive seaside resort -- who endured ad hoc procedures to accommodate Trump's new status as commander-in-chief earlier this year -- will nevertheless see some changes this season. Only two guests per member are allowed at any one time, and dinner reservations are available only two weeks in advance to stop members from snagging all the potential prime Trump time, according to a recent notice relayed to members." http://politi.co/2iCtZ1d

FIRST IN PLAYBOOK -- TRUMP WHITE HOUSE DEPARTURE LOUNGE -- TIM TRIPEPI has left the White House as director of operations for First Lady Melania Trump and special assistant to the president. He had his final day last week. He previously was deputy director of the Trump inauguration committee, worked on advance for the Trump campaign and is also a Kasich 2016 and Romney 2012 campaign alum. He declined to comment. A spokesperson for the first lady told us: "We thank him for his service and wish him luck in his future endeavors."

VALLEY TALK -- "Google collects Android users' locations even when location

services are disabled," by Quartz's Keith Collins: "Since the beginning of 2017, Android phones have been collecting the addresses of nearby cellular towers -- even when location services are disabled-and sending that data back to Google. The result is that Google, the unit of Alphabet behind Android, has access to data about individuals' locations and their movements that go far beyond a reasonable consumer expectation of privacy. Quartz observed the data collection occur and contacted Google, which confirmed the practice.

"The cell tower addresses have been included in information sent to the system Google uses to manage push notifications and messages on Android phones for the past 11 months, according to a Google spokesperson. They were never used or stored, the spokesperson said, and the company is now taking steps to end the practice after being contacted by Quartz. By the end of November, the company said, Android phones will no longer send cell-tower location data to Google, at least as part of this particular service, which consumers cannot disable." http://bit.ly/2iB139W

REVOLT AT FOGGY BOTTOM -- "State Dept. revolt: Tillerson accused of violating U.S. law on child soldiers," by Reuters' Jason Szep and Matt Spetalnick: "A group of about a dozen U.S. State Department officials have taken the unusual step of formally accusing Secretary of State Rex Tillerson of violating a federal law designed to stop foreign militaries from enlisting child soldiers, according to internal government documents reviewed by Reuters.

"A confidential State Department 'dissent' memo not previously reported said Tillerson breached the Child Soldiers Prevention Act when he decided in June to exclude Iraq, Myanmar, and Afghanistan from a U.S. list of offenders in the use of child soldiers. This was despite the department publicly acknowledging that children were being conscripted in those countries." http://reut.rs/2iBvvk4

NEW OFF MESSAGE -- "Garry Kasparov Would Like You to Stop Saying 'Trump Is Playing 4-D Chess'," by Isaac Dovere: "Chess? That's not what Garry Kasparov sees Donald Trump or Vladimir Putin playing -- three-dimensional or any other kind. But if they did sit down for a game, the former grandmaster believes the Russian president would obviously win. ... For the last 10 months, Kasparov has watched Trump's interactions with the Russian president, and thinks Trump is playing exactly into what the Kremlin wants while apparently refusing to understand Putin's goals." http://politi.co/2B06u8V ... *Listen on Apple Podcasts* http://apple.co/2yEsfe8

MORE ON WEINSTEIN -- "Harvey Weinstein's Secret Settlements," by Ronan Farrow in The New Yorker: "On April 20, 2015, the Filipina-Italian model Ambra Battilana Gutierrez sat in an office in midtown Manhattan with an eighteen-page legal agreement in front of her. She had been advised by her attorney that signing the agreement was the best thing for her and her family. In exchange for a million-dollar payment from Harvey Weinstein, Gutierrez would agree never to talk publicly about an incident during which Weinstein groped her breasts and tried to stick his hand up her skirt. ...

"Weinstein used nondisclosure agreements like the one Gutierrez signed to evade accountability for claims of sexual harassment and assault for at least twenty years. He used these kinds of agreements with employees, business partners, and women who made allegations -- women who were often much younger and far less powerful than Weinstein, and who signed under pressure from attorneys on both sides.

"Weinstein also hid the payments underwriting some of these settlements. In one case, in the nineteen-nineties, Bob Weinstein, who co-founded the film studio Miramax with his brother, paid two hundred and fifty thousand pounds, roughly six hundred thousand dollars today, to be split between two female employees in England who accused Harvey Weinstein of sexual harassment and assault. The funds came from Bob Weinstein's personal bank account -- a move that helped conceal the payment from executives at Miramax and its parent company, Disney, as well as from Harvey Weinstein's spouse." http://bit.ly/2iBmdoc

-- Slate hosted a conversation with three of Weinstein's accusers -- actresses Alice Evans and Katherine Kendall and Tomi-Ann Roberts, a psychology professor and former aspiring actress herself -- about the aftermath of their allegations and the wave of stories it kickstarted. http://slate.me/2B02CoB

MEDIAWATCH -- "Ben Carson's Controversial Confidant Wants to Buy Washington Newspaper," by Mother Jones' Andy Kroll and Russ Choma: "Armstrong Williams, the conservative businessman, TV talk-show host, and longtime confidant of Secretary of Housing and Urban Development Ben Carson, is trying to buy Washington City Paper, the alternative weekly newspaper covering the nation's capital. According to a current City Paper staffer, the paper's editor, Alexa Mills, informed the staff on November 10 that Williams was interested in buying the publication. Later that morning, Williams and three associates arrived in the newsroom. 'We learned he was coming in,' the staffer told Mother Jones, 'and then he was suddenly there.' Williams went around the newsroom shaking hands with members of the editorial staff and asking about their journalism backgrounds." http://bit.ly/2iDK4Ua

-- MARK LEVIN will host a show on Fox News called "Life, Liberty & Levin" that debuts in February 2018. It will air Sundays at 10 p.m.

GOOD NEWS -- "Cups to Remain in Russell," by Roll Call's Alex Gangitano: "The Architect of the Capitol has decided to keep Cups & Company in the Russell Senate Office Building after all. The beloved coffee spot's contract will be renewed, co-owner Kathy Chung told Roll Call. The good news came in a Monday email from the AOC, she said." http://bit.ly/2iBJ6rt

SPOTTED -- Al Hunt this morning on the Acela to New York.

OBAMA ALUMNI -- BRENT COLBURN has been hired as Princeton's VP for communications and public affairs; he starts Feb. 1. He currently is VP for

communications at the Chan Zuckerberg Initiative and served as assistant to the Secretary of Defense for public affairs during the Obama administration, where he also worked at HUD, DHS and FEMA.

TRANSITIONS -- Jacqueline Boggess has joined Strategic Partners & Media as a media strategist. She was previously creative director at D.C. London. **Arpit Patel** has also joined the firm as a digital media planner and **Baker Landon** as interactive content coordinator. ... **Jill Gerber** has started as communications director for the U.S. Office of Special Counsel. She previously worked for Sen. Chuck Grassley (R-Iowa). ... **Layle Nelson** has joined CRAFT as the company's senior vice president of public affairs. She was previously SVP at APCO Worldwide.

ENGAGED -- Tara Mancini, manager of public policy at the National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy, recently got engaged to **Aditya Chakrabarti,** a software engineer at Sprinklr. "He proposed after dinner at Silver Brassiere in D.C. We met through an Italian language Meet-up group in D.C. in 2008 (I had just returned from studying in Italy over the summer, and he had lived in Rome for a few years as a child)." ***Pic of the couple on top of the Space Needle*** http://politi.co/2jLsKQN

WELCOME TO THE WORLD -- Adam Piper, policy director for the Republican Attorneys General Association, who previously served as a top aide to S.C. AG Alan Wilson, and **Meredith Piper,** a CPA with Scott and Co., welcomed Paige Renee Piper on Monday at 1:01 p.m. "Adam and Meredith were so excited to be parents, Meredith was in Labor for only 9 minutes!" Paige came in at 5lbs 13.4oz, 18.5 inches. ***Pic*** http://politi.co/2jIfzzZ

--Winston Lord, co-founder and "chief evangelist" of Venga, and **Stephanie Lord,** executive director of Batonga Foundation, email friends and family: "Please say hello to Miss Tenley!... Born Saturday, November 18, at 8:03 p.m. Like Levi, she was also born at home -- this time intentionally and with dad present :). ... Full name: Winston Tennessee 'Tenley' Lord 6lbs 2oz and 19 inches Brown hair, blue eyes; Winston for obvious reasons. Tennessee because Stephanie's family has deep roots there." ***Pics*** http://politi.co/2A0nkoQ ... http://politi.co/2zV9JRX ... http://politi.co/2zaeFzd

WEEKEND WEDDING -- Mary-Ryan Douglass, the PAC director at the American Pharmacists Association and a DCCC alum, on Friday married **Colin Milligan,** who works in communications at the American Hospital Association and is an alum of Sen. Amy Klobuchar (D-Minn.) and Rep. Cheri Bustos (D-Ill.). The wedding was in her hometown of Cleveland. "The couple met in 2012 at 'The Hammer,' a now defunct bar in Las Vegas, while both were working on political campaigns in Nevada." ***Pics*** http://bit.ly/2zTAJkV ... http://bit.ly/2iy71YP

SPOTTED: Ivana Brancaccio and Steven Kirsch, Mandi Karp, Brittany Kerrigan, Daniel Delgado, Kat Loomis and Richard Davidson, Calla Brown and Kerry Gutknecht, Katie Naessens, John-Michael Donahue, Courtney Ryan and Nick Halsted, Joe Manion, Todd Wolf, Mary Plasencia, Alexandra and Ben Driscoll, and Kristen Bautz.

BONUS BIRTHDAY OF THE DAY: Jonathan Greenblatt, national director and CEO of the Anti-Defamation League. **A trend he thinks deserves more attention:** "The rise of extremism from both sides of the political spectrum." **Read his Playbook Plus Q&A**: http://politi.co/2z8hcKe

****** **A message from the Peter G. Peterson Foundation:** Washington is debating tax reform. There's talk of substantial tax cuts that will give trillions of dollars back to American taxpayers. That sounds great. But if these tax cuts aren't paid for, future generations will be stuck with the bill. Congress is right to pursue tax reform - the code is outdated, complex and unfair. Tax reform done right should be permanent, because businesses and individuals need certainty to plan and invest. It should be based on realistic, independent projections and assumptions about the effect on our economy and our fiscal outlook. And it should enjoy bipartisan support, so that it's durable over time. Lawmakers should use the valuable opportunity presented by tax reform both to improve our fiscal outlook and strengthen the economy at the same time. Congress, tax reform should grow the economy. Not the debt. Learn more at www.pgpf.org/tax-reform. ******

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Today's POLITICO Playbook presented by CTIA

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Driving the Day

NEWS -- PAUL SINGER, the billionaire hedge fund manager, gave a $1 million donation to the Senate Leadership Fund on Aug. 1, according to a recently released FEC report. Senate Leadership Fund is the main outside super PAC supporting Senate Republicans.

BULLETIN at 5:17 a.m. -- "LONDON (AP) - Police declare reported explosion on London subway a terrorist incident." ***AP story*** http://bit.ly/2y2PddV

-- THE TELEGRAPH: "Commuters fled in terror after a blast sent a 'fireball' and a 'wall of flame' through a packed London Underground train at Parsons Green station. Witnesses reported seeing several people hurt and 'covered in blood' after a 'flash and a bang' on the District Line Tube in west London on Friday morning. Pictures and video posted on social media showed a flaming bucket -- which is said to have had wires coming from it -- inside a plastic carrier bag on the floor of a carriage." http://bit.ly/2xCSaFJ

ANOTHER MISSILE FROM NORTH KOREA -- "North Korea fires missile over Japan in longest-ever flight," by AP's Kim Tong-Hyung and Foster Klug in Seoul: "North Korea conducted its longest-ever test flight of a ballistic missile Friday, sending an intermediate-range weapon hurtling over U.S. ally Japan into the northern Pacific Ocean in a launch that signals both defiance to its rivals and a big technological advance. Since President Donald Trump threatened the North with 'fire and fury' in August, Pyongyang has conducted its most powerful nuclear test, threatened to send missiles into the waters around the U.S. Pacific island territory of Guam and launched two missiles of increasing range over Japan. July saw its first tests of intercontinental ballistic missiles that could strike deep into the U.S. mainland when perfected

"The growing frequency, power and confidence displayed by these tests seem to confirm what governments and outside experts have long feared: North Korea is closer than ever to its goal of building a military arsenal that can viably target both U.S. troops in Asia and the U.S. homeland. This, in turn, is meant to allow North Korea greater military freedom in the region by raising doubts in Seoul and Tokyo that Washington would risk the annihilation of a U.S. city to protect its Asian allies." http://bit.ly/2x5RE1t

-- L.A. TIMES: "Japan calls latest North Korean missile launch a 'serious act of provocation'," by Matt Stiles in Seoul: "In a show of defense, South Korean military officials said they immediately retaliated by sending a missile of their own about 150 miles into the East Sea, also known as the Sea of Japan - the same distance as the base where the North Korean missile originated. 'Our military is closely monitoring the North Korean army for further provocations with strengthened vigilance by following their movements and maintaining our readiness,' the Defense Ministry said in a statement. South Korean President Moon Jae-in said his government would hold an emergency meeting in response to the launch." http://wapo.st/2h6YiiH

Good Friday morning. INSIDE THE OVAL -- MIKE SCHMIDT and **MAGGIE HABERMAN: "Trump Humiliated Jeff Sessions After Mueller Appointment":** "Shortly after learning in May that a special counsel had been appointed to investigate links between his campaign associates and Russia, President Trump berated Attorney General Jeff Sessions in an Oval Office meeting and said he should resign, according to current and former administration officials and others briefed on the matter.

"The president attributed the appointment of the special counsel, Robert S. Mueller III, to Mr. Sessions's decision to recuse himself from the Justice Department's Russia investigation - a move Mr. Trump believes was the moment his administration effectively lost control over the inquiry. Accusing Mr. Sessions of 'disloyalty,' Mr. Trump unleashed a string of insults on his attorney general.

"Ashen and emotional, Mr. Sessions told the president he would quit and sent a resignation letter to the White House, according to four people who were told details of the meeting. Mr. Sessions would later tell associates that the demeaning way the president addressed him was the most humiliating experience in decades of public life." http://nyti.ms/2x15NxV

BREAKING OVERNIGHT -- BOSTON GLOBE: "Harvard Kennedy School rescinds invite for Chelsea Manning to serve as visiting fellow," by Felicia Gans: "The Harvard Kennedy School is withdrawing its invitation for Chelsea Manning to serve as a visiting fellow, just one day after former acting CIA director Michael Morell resigned from his position of senior fellow at the school in protest against Harvard's decision. Douglas W. Elmendorf, dean of the Kennedy School, said that designating Manning as a visiting fellow 'was a mistake' for which he accepts responsibility, but that Manning is still invited to speak at the Forum.

"'I see more clearly now that many people view a Visiting Fellow title as an honorific, so we should weigh that consideration when offering invitations," Elmendorf said in a statement released early Friday morning, just after midnight. "In particular, I think we should weigh, for each potential visitor, what members of the Kennedy School community could learn from that person's visit against the extent to which that person's conduct fulfills the values of public service to which we aspire.'" http://bit.ly/2faK6on

-- HAVANA (AP): "AP sources: After US confronted Cuba, Raul Castro personally assured US envoy that Cuba didn't sicken American diplomats."

THE LATEST ON THE DACA DEAL ...

-- THE BIG PICTURE: "Inside Trump's dalliance with Democrats," by Rachael Bade and Josh Dawsey: "Trump is on a bipartisan tear of late. Elated by what he viewed as glowing press after his debt ceiling deal with Democratic leaders 'Chuck and Nancy' last week, Trump wants to replicate that thrill of victory, which he believes Republicans have failed to deliver since his inauguration. In recent weeks, Trump has complained in private that it's difficult to have any sort of relationship -- or even make small talk -- with Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell. He's told staff that he finds Speaker Paul Ryan, whom he's dubbed a 'boy scout,' dry as well, but the two have some rapport.

"By contrast, Trump can relate to Democratic leaders Chuck Schumer and Nancy Pelosi, who talk more in non-Washington terms that he understands, according to people familiar with their meetings. Trump wants to keep meeting with them. No one knows how long his bipartisan kick will last or how successful he'll be. Democrats have little political upside to working with an unpopular president whom their base abhors. And there will certainly be limits to how much the White House can cut out Republican leadership, who still control what the House and Senate actually vote on." http://politi.co/2eZhURu

--"Why Did Trump Work Again With Democrats? 'He Likes Us,' Schumer Says," by NYT's Maggie Haberman and Glenn Thrush: "Mr. Schumer, who had engaged in a public feud with Mr. Trump for months, thinks that Democrats - meaning Mr. Schumer himself - seem to have finally figured out a way to exert influence on the president without getting too close to a man most Democratic voters view as unfit to serve. 'He likes us. He likes me, anyway,' Mr. Schumer was overheard saying on the Senate floor on Thursday, adding that he had told the president, 'You're much better off if you can sometimes step right and sometimes step left.'" http://nyti.ms/2vY5uAi

****** **A message from CTIA and America's wireless industry:** The global race to deploy 5G wireless is on-and America needs to win. Government action on spectrum and infrastructure policy will allow U.S. wireless companies to invest $275 billion, create more than 3 million jobs, and add $500 billion to the economy, according to Accenture. Learn more at CTIA.org. ******

WHERE GOP IS GOING ON DACA -- "Ryan to impanel GOP working group on

DACA," by Rachael Bade: "Speaker Paul Ryan is impaneling an informal working group of moderate Republicans and immigration hard-liners to find a solution for so-called Dreamers that the House GOP conference can support. ...

"Immigration hard-liners, including House Judiciary Chairman Bob Goodlatte (R-Va.), Rep. Raul Labrador (R-Idaho) and Rep. Jim Sensenbrenner (R-Wis.), will sit on the panel. So, too, will more centrist members from Hispanic-populated districts who have followed immigration closely, including Reps. Mario Diaz-Balart (R-Fla.) and Will Hurd (R-Texas).

"The chairman of the Homeland Security Committee, Rep. Michael McCaul (R-Texas), will also join the working group. So, too, will Rep. John Carter (R-Texas), who chairs the appropriations subcommittee on homeland security, and Rep. Martha McSally (R-Ariz.), another member of the Homeland Security Committee." http://politi.co/2wsTpSR

DEMS FACING THEIR OWN DACA PROBLEMS -- "Pelosi, Schumer face ire from the left over Dreamer talks," by Elana Schor and Heather Caygle: "Democratic leaders are facing fresh trouble with their left flank after cutting their latest deal with President Donald Trump to protect Dreamers. Hispanic lawmakers were blindsided by the Wednesday night announcement from House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) and Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-N.Y.) that they'd support legislation to help the nearly 700,000 undocumented immigrants in exchange for an unspecified boost in border security. And immigration activists were frustrated to see Democrats claim victory only days after calling for a stand-alone vote on a path to citizenship for Dreamers.

"The concerns are particularly acute in the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, where some members worry Democratic leaders -- despite getting Trump to drop demands for a border wall in the talks -- have already given away too much in the nascent negotiations and say their members are being shut out of key talks. ... Pelosi sought to assuage her caucus' concerns Thursday morning, telling House Democratic whips that despite 'some misunderstandings in the press about a deal, we made a deal to make a deal. We made a deal to go forward.'" http://politi.co/2x3UXET

-- PELOSI TRUTH TALK: "So let us embrace our success instead of tinkling all over it, as we have a tendency to do all over ourselves," Pelosi added, according to a source in the room. 'Because this -- I'm just being very honest with you, okay? Because we don't have the majority."

MUELLER WATCH -- "Manafort spokesman to testify before grand jury Friday," by Josh Dawsey: "The spokesman, Jason Maloni, has worked for Trump's former campaign chairman since early 2017 and has wide visibility into Manafort's dealings. It's unclear exactly what prosecutors want to know from Maloni. Asking a PR person to testify is an unusual step that raises some troubling questions, according to lawyers and others in the industry. Spokespeople are paid and generally enjoy confidential relationships with clients, often seeing private documents and other private matters."

http://politi.co/2xDYihe

-- "Roger Stone to appear before House Russia probe September 26," by CNN's Manu Raju and Jeremy Herb: http://cnn.it/2x4yqaZ

ABOUT THAT PRIVATE PLANE REQUEST -- Morning Money's Ben White sat down with Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin yesterday at the POLITICO Pro Summit. From White: "Of course, I asked him about the story-du-jour, Mnuchin's initial request for a government plane for his honeymoon trip with Scottish actress Louise Linton: 'Let me be clear. I'm very sensitive to the use of government funds. I've never asked the government to pay for my personal travel,' he told me. 'This had nothing to do with convenience. This was purely about national security.'

"Mnuchin also denied reports that his recent trip aboard a government plane to Kentucky - made famous by Linton's Instagram post - had anything to do with checking out the eclipse. 'You know, people in Kentucky took this stuff very serious. Being a New Yorker ... I was like, the eclipse? Really? I don't have any interest in watching the eclipse.'" ***Here's a clip of the plane convo*** http://politi.co/2x1g3WX ... ***Full convo with House Ways and Means Chairman Kevin Brady and Ranking Member Richie Neal on tax reform*** http://politi.co/2wuLnsQ

-- SURVEY SAYS: At yesterday's inaugural summit, we polled the audience of top policy and political professionals. During House Ways and Means Chairman Kevin Brady's (R-Texas) panel discussion, POLITICO Pros were asked whether they believed Congress would pass a major tax bill this year. Their response: 89% said no. 11% said yes.

TRUMP'S FRIDAY -- TRUMP meets with Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross, and will speak to leaders of the Jewish community ahead of Rosh Hashana. He meets one on one with Sen. Bob Corker (R-Tenn.) before heading to Andrews Air Force Base. At Andrews, he'll participate in an "air fleet demonstration" before delivering remarks. Trump then goes to Bedminster.

THE JUICE ...

-- "History Orders Bill Clinton Impeachment Drama Series 'The Breach' From RJ Cutler," by Deadline's Nellie Andreeva: "History has given the green light to 'The Breach: Inside The Impeachment of Bill Clinton,' a six-part scripted drama series from R.J. Cutler based on Peter Baker's bestseller 'The Breach: Inside the Impeachment and Trial of William Jefferson Clinton.'" http://bit.ly/2yd2odg

--"Sean Spicer A Ratings Magnet For Jimmy Kimmel, As Donald Trump Forecast," by Deadline Hollywood's Lisa de Moraes: "Spicer delivered Kimmel's highest ratings on any night in six months, excluding episodes fueled by NBA Finals lead-ins. Among Wednesday night editions, it was Jimmy Kimmel Live's best showing in eight months. Spicer out-clocked NBC's Tonight Show by 17% in homes (2.1/6 vs. 1.8/5)."

http://bit.ly/2x0XKkt

JOIN US AT #CONCORDIA17: POLITICO is the official media partner of the 2017 Concordia Annual Summit taking place in conjunction with the UN General Assembly in NYC. Join Anna as she moderates a session with David Axelrod and Tim Phillips on political strategy in the age of information load on Monday starting at 12:55 p.m. She and Jack Blanchard, author of the recently launched London Playbook, will also team up for an official Playbook Reporter Briefing on Tuesday. ***Sign up here:*** http://bit.ly/2gGAdey

Playbook Reads

PHOTO DU JOUR: President Donald Trump can be seen speaking to the media reflected in the sunglasses of first lady Melania Trump as they arrive at the White House on Sept. 14. | Alex Brandon/AP Photo

2018 WATCH -- "Democrats cling to the impossible: Winning the Senate in 2018," by Kevin Robillard and Gabe Debenedetti: "Senate Democrats are three seats shy of a majority and almost entirely on defense in the 2018 elections, making it all but impossible for them to retake the chamber next year. But Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer and DSCC Chairman Chris Van Hollen are privately refusing to rule out an improbable midterm victory, even though they must first defend 10 incumbents in states President Donald Trump won.

"Their insistence is primarily to keep donors invested and excited about next year's Senate races, said a handful of top party operatives. But Democrats also want to be prepared to ride a massive wave next fall should one develop, potentially taking advantage of bloody Republican primaries to spur a red-state surprise and swing the Senate. ... Democrats' path to 51 Senate seats in 2018 is exceedingly narrow. They would have to defend all of their Trump-state incumbents, including five in states the president won by double-digits." http://politi.co/2h7SNjv

-- "Senator Kamala Harris, darling of progressives, says she'd support a Feinstein re-election bid '100 percent'," by California Playbooker Carla Marinucci: http://politi.co/2wd95yp

KFILE -- "Senate candidate Roy Moore this year suggested 9/11 might have been punishment for U.S. turning away from God," by CNN's Andrew Kaczynski and Nathan McDermott: "Alabama Senate candidate Roy Moore suggested earlier this year that the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks might have happened because the US had distanced itself from God. Moore, a hardline conservative running against fellow Republican and incumbent Sen. Luther Strange in a runoff primary race, made the comments in February during a speech at the Open Door Baptist Church, a video

reviewed by CNN's KFile shows." http://cnn.it/2wtHQe9

REPEAL AND REPLACE, PART II? -- "Trump may replace Obama's big climate rule - not just repeal it," by Emily Holden: "The Trump administration is opening the door to offering its own replacement for former President Barack Obama's landmark climate regulation - rather than just erasing it altogether. A mend-it-don't-end-it approach on Obama's 2015 rule could appease power companies that say the EPA needs to impose some kind of climate regulation - even if it's much weaker - to avoid triggering courtroom challenges that would cloud the industry in years of uncertainty.

"But it would run afoul of demands from some conservative activists, who have pressured EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt to reject the idea that climate change is a problem requiring federal action. The agency aims by early October to issue a proposal to undo Obama's climate rule, along with a separate advance notice of its intent to consider a replacement, a source close to the process told POLITICO." http://politi.co/2h8w0o4

****** **A message from CTIA and America's wireless industry:** Tomorrow's 5G networks will create 3 million jobs, add $500 billion to the economy, and fuel innovation and entrepreneurialism across every sector. If policymakers move quickly to release more spectrum and modernize infrastructure rules, the wireless industry stands ready to invest $275 billion to build these next-gen networks, according to Accenture. This will drive breakthrough advancements in remote health care, connected vehicles, energy, education and beyond-making our lives better and safer. But the race to deploy 5G wireless networks is underway-and we're at a critical moment. The EU, China, Japan, South Korea and others are doing everything they can to win. If policymakers act now, the U.S. can continue our global leadership in wireless. Learn how at CTIA.org. ******

BUSINESS BURST -- "Trump Push for U.S. Jobs May Spur Boom in 'Corporate Welfare,'" by Bloomberg's John McCormick: "President Donald Trump's quest to open more factories and corporate headquarters in the U.S. scored a major win Thursday as Wisconsin lawmakers approved the biggest corporate subsidy package ever awarded to a foreign company. ... Some analysts foresee a rush of new state-level subsidies and tax breaks as governors compete for any new facilities built by companies suddenly flush with newfound tax savings. Call it tax reform in reverse -- a prospect that doesn't please portions of Trump's base, or deep-pocketed conservative donors, who equate such sweetheart deals to 'corporate welfare.'" https://bloom.bg/2jtOu31

VALLEY TALK -- "Google and Facebook Fret Over Anti-Prostitution Bill's Fallout," by Bloomberg's Todd Shields: "Google and Facebook Inc. are opposing a Senate bill that aims to squelch online trafficking of children, a stance that makes the Silicon Valley giants uneasy allies of a website accused of providing an advertising platform for teen prostitution. The companies and tech trade groups say online providers will face greater liability for speech and videos posted by users if U.S. lawmakers move against Backpage.com and its online classified ads. Bill supporters disagree, saying the measure creates a narrow exception needed to vanquish a harmful operator hiding

behind current law, and won't harm the internet." https://bloom.bg/2wdDFIt

CLICKER - "Cassini's Mission to Saturn in 100 Images," by NYT's Jonathan Corum: "NASA's Cassini spacecraft will burn up in Saturn's atmosphere on Friday, after 20 years in space." http://nyti.ms/2x6dHFj

TV TONIGHT - JUDY WOODRUFF is interviewing **HILLARY CLINTON** for the "PBS Newshour."

MEDIAWATCH -- NORAH O'DONNELL is celebrating her five year anniversary on "CBS This Morning" this week. ***Top moments from the past five years*** http://cbsn.ws/2jtB7jb

--RECODE's PETER KAFKA -- "New York Times reporter Mike Isaac is writing a book about Uber: Crazy ambition, betrayal, sex, deceit and naked power grabs all make for a page-turner." http://bit.ly/2h653h7

-- PELOSI AND PRESTON: House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi spoke with CNN senior political analyst Mark Preston for his SiriusXM show, "Full Stop with Mark Preston." Pelosi talked about President Trump and the potential for the use of subpoena power should Democrats regain the majority in the House. The show airs Saturday at noon and Sunday at 5 p.m. on Sirius XM POTUS 124. CLIPS FOR PLAYBOOKERS: ***Her relationship with Trump*** http://bit.ly/2fmg3Xq ... T ***rump's learning curve with Congress*** http://bit.ly/2xCHI1g ... ***What she thinks of her Democratic critics*** http://bit.ly/2x0JRmA

Playbookers

SPOTTED: Anthony Atamanuik, who plays Trump on Comedy Central's "The President Show," head writer Christine Nangle at dinner at the Palm with Sen. Al Franken (D-Minn.) and wife Franni, hosted by Amy Nathan and Howard Fineman, a consultant to the show - ***pic*** http://bit.ly/2xpcCcn ... Bill Clinton at Oceana's New York Gala on Wednesday night at Blue Hill at Stone Barns -- Clinton presented actor Ted Danson with a lifetime achievement award -- ***pic*** http://bit.ly/2x3xNys

OUT AND ABOUT -- The Recording Industry Association of America and American Gaming Association hosted Las Vegas showman and artist Frankie Moreno for a "Welcome Back and Vegas Night" reception at RIAA offices. **SPOTTED:** Rep. Darrell Issa (R-Calif.), Tyler Grimm, Brenda Belaire, Mitch Glazier, Rachel Schwegman, Morna Willens, Cara Duckworth, Yebbie Watkins, Jennifer Lackey, Chris Cylke, Sarah Hudson, Mike Memoli, Bret Wincup, Kendra Barkoff, Ted Johnson, Michele Ballantyne, Todd Flournoy and Jonathan Lamy.

-- House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi' s press office and reporters gathered on the

Appropriations balcony of the Capitol Thursday afternoon for a sendoff to departing Pelosi Chief of Staff Nadeam Elshami, who previously served as a Pelosi spokesman and communications director. **SPOTTED:** John Bresnahan, Paul Kane, Frank Thorpe, Deirdre Walsh, Carl Hulse, Jill Jackson, Erica Werner, Walt Cronkite, Billy House, Andy Taylor, Robert Pear, Jon Ward, Chad Pergram, Trish Turner, John Parkinson, Ted Barrett, Tom Williams. (h/t Drew Hammill)

-- The Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America hosted a "Tribute to Congressional Staff" concert last night at Rock and Roll Hotel with White Ford Bronco. **SPOTTED:** Ben Jenkins, Allison Jaslow, Joel Bailey, Steve Danon, Cicely Simpson, Robert Edmonson, Liz Falcone, Kristen Hawn, Ashley Jones, Cori Kramer, Jeff Murray, Nishith Pandya, James Leuschen and Kenneth Martin.

SUNDAY SO FAR - "Fox News Sunday": Lt. Gen. H.R. McMaster. Panel: Newt Gingrich, Julie Pace, Guy Benson, Rachael Bade. Power Player: Dr. Robin West, head team physician for the Washington Redskins & the Washington Nationals

--CBS' "Face the Nation": Secretary of State Rex Tillerson ... Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.) ... Ken Burns and Lynn Novick, co-directors of "The Vietnam War" ... Political panel: Jamelle Bouie, Jeffrey Goldberg, Susan Page, and Ramesh Ponnuru.

--NBC's "Meet the Press": Michael Bloomberg. Panel: Doris Kearns Goodwin David Brody, Al Cardenas, Katy Tur

--CNN's "State of the Union" (guest host: Dana Bash): Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.). Panel: Ana Navarro, Rick Santorum, Jennifer Granholm, David Urban

--CNN's "Inside Politics," hosted by John King: Julie Davis, Karoun Demirjian, Nia-Malika Henderson, Eliana Johnson

TRANSITIONS - Haley Morris has started at Waymo working in communications. She previously worked for Microsoft and was national press secretary for the O'Malley campaign and communications director for Gary Peters' 2014 Senate run.

OBAMA ALUMNI -- Michael Coen , longtime chief of staff for FEMA during the Obama Administration and Craig Fugate's tenure, has joined global security firm IEM as senior homeland security and emergency management adviser.

BIRTHDAY OF THE DAY: Ashley Parker, WaPo White House reporter, MSNBC contributor and NYT alum. **How/where are you celebrating your birthday and with whom?** "I assume I'll spend the day covering President Trump - though I did manage to get a generous colleague to take my morning shift, so at least I know that my birthday won't start at 6:15 a.m. filing off of something Trump may Tweet. Then I'm continuing my tour of Babies Along The North Eastern Seaboard, and heading to New York for the weekend to visit my best friend from college and her new daughter (Fiona!). My boyfriend also got us tickets to see 'Dear Evan Hansen' - which means he'll likely get to

sit next to me while I weep through the better part of the show." **Read her Playbook Plus Q&A:** http://politi.co/2wtLEfr

BIRTHDAYS: Sara Fagan, partner at DDC Public Affairs and a Bush alum ... former Bush WH speechwriter John McConnell (hat tip: Tim Burger) ... PR executive and Jack Kemp alum Christian Pinkston (h/t Rick Ahearn) ... Chris Lehmann ... Rep. Joe Barton (R-Texas) ... Rep. Nanette Diaz Barragán (D-Calif.) ... NPR media correspondent David Folkenflik ... Todd Breasseale, News Feed integrity team manager at Facebook and a DHS and DoD alum ... The Hill's Ben Kamisar ... CBS News producer Adam Aigner-Treworgy ... Hans Nichols, NBC News Pentagon correspondent ... Alana Russo, VP for corporate comms at The CW ... former Sen. Mark Kirk (R-Ill.) ... Politico's Kathryn Wolfe, Eliza Shapiro, Jennifer Miller and Nguyen Phuoc ... Alexandra Berg ... Tiffany Haverly, comms director for Rep. Phil Roe (R-Tenn.) and the House Vet Affairs committee ... Sabrina Rush ... Justin Bryant ... Sandra Alcalá (h/t Jon Haber) ... Jon Gossett, chief advancement officer at the National Trust for Historic Preservation ... Owen Pataki, co-author of "Where the Light Falls" ...

... Chandler Smith, comms director for the Senate Republican Conference and former Heller CD (h/t Rodell Mollineau) ... Amy Sisk, journalist at Inside Energy and a Politico alum ... Rebecca McGrath, VP of gov't relations at Cardinal Health and a Dodd alum (h/t Chris) ... Zara Rahim, director of comms at Vogue ... Tony Mauro, Supreme Court correspondent for law.com and The National Law Journal ... Katie Thompson ... EPA's David Lloyd ... Elizabeth Meyer, senior consultant for strategic comms at Booz Allen Hamilton and a Politico alum ... Cat Cheney ... Don Irvine ... Jodi Hanson Bond, SVP of the Americas at the U.S. Chamber ... Bryan Doyle ... Mal Kline ... Kristen Bor ... Dave Shott (Red Sox tip: Richard Keil) ... Bloomberg View's Max Berley ... CNN's Ryan Nobles ... Veronica Lew ... Nathan Hurst ... Tiffany McGuffee ... Allyson Alvare ... CNBC's Ryan Ruggiero ... Cole Hanna ... Jordan Stoick ... Theola Sacha Labbé ... Michael Ruby ... D.C. realtor Connie Carter ... Neil Makhija ... Marie Arana ... Phillip Nathaniel Wachter ... Mike Lewis ... Phil Zabriskie ... Wayne Reynolds ... Chip Rodgers ... Todd Olsen ... Betsy Shelton, spending her day raising money for the Houston Food Bank (h/t Teresa Vilmain)

****** **A message from CTIA and America's wireless industry:** We need new rules for new 5G networks. New policies that will allow the U.S. to win the race to 5G and enable breakthrough advancements in healthcare, transportation, energy and more. First, a pipeline of low-, mid-, and high-band spectrum will help meet today's mobile needs and enable the 5G networks of tomorrow. Second, every level of government must modernize their rules for the building of small cell wireless infrastructure. Third, permanent and common sense federal regulations for interstate services like mobile broadband will preserve an open internet and protect consumer privacy while promoting innovation and investment. Finally, America's tax structure must be updated to spur billions of dollars in new 5G investment. Learn more about how wireless is working to invest in America's future at CTIA.org. ******

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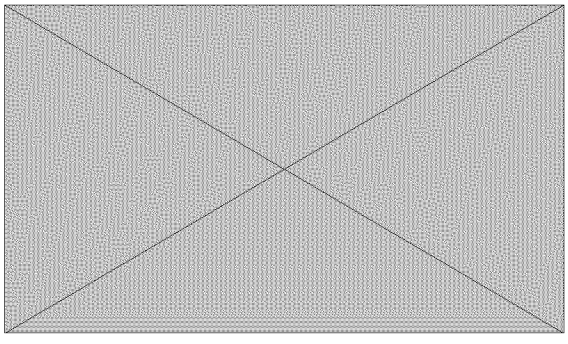
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From: American Enterprise Institute
Sent: Fri 9/15/2017 10:03:29 AM
Subject: AEI Today: The unbearable mundanity of the Equifax breach

It was the most serious of breaches, it was the most mundane of breaches.

AEI's daily publication of independent research, insightful analysis, and scholarly debate



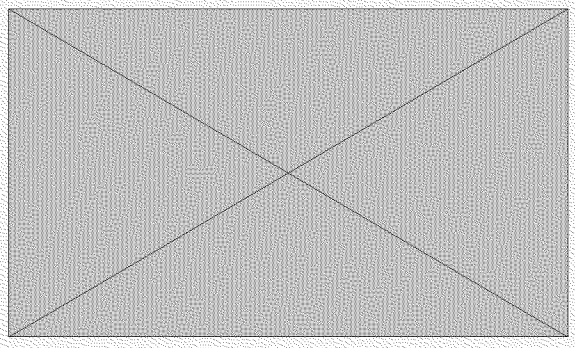
Reuters

The unbearable mundanity of the Equifax breach

Gus Hurwitz | AEIdeas

The recent Equifax breach, which involved the sensitive personal data of 143 million people, is one of the worst data breaches in history. Facts about the incident are still sparse, but initial reports suggest that the event was extraordinarily mundane, involving an unpatched vulnerability in software installed by a contractor. Almost all attention in the coming weeks will focus on "how to prevent the next Equifax." It turns out that's

the wrong question.

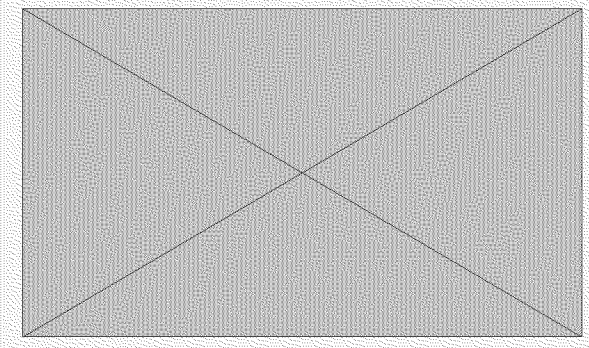


Reuters

The magical thinking of the Democrats' Medicare for all

James Pethokoukis | The Week

Democrats rightly attack Republicans when the GOP's politicians and pundits propose some fantastical, math-defying tax cut that will slash government revenue but supposedly keep deficits in check. What tax cuts are to Republicans, single-payer health care seems to now be for Democrats: a popular, populist policy idea that's far more attractive in broad strokes than devilish details. Now is hardly time to gamble on risky, ill-considered schemes.

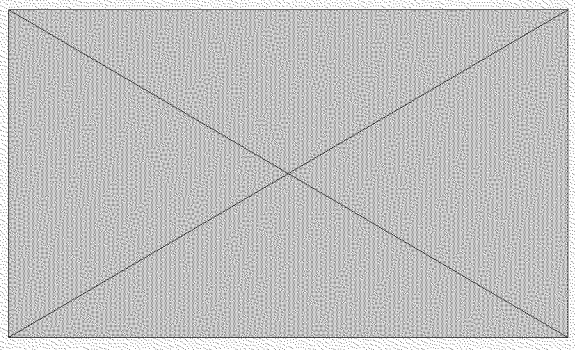


Reuters

Russia's Trojan horse

Gary J. Schmitt and Thomas Donnelly | CNN.com

Over the past several months, Western militaries have expressed anxiety over the large-scale Russian military exercise known as "Zapad" — or "West" — slated to begin in mid-September and engage virtually every element of Russian forces. In late July, Lt. Gen. Ben Hodges, commander of US Army Europe, warned that NATO allies fear Zapad could be a Russian Trojan horse. That concern isn't unwarranted.



Reuters

Perversity of sin taxes

Roger Bate | AEIdeas

As authorities around the world have increased taxes on tobacco products to reduce smoking, illicit tobacco use has increased. Organized criminals have moved from smuggling brands into making their own products. A team at AEI ran an empirical study on the industry, finding that tax rates drive the illicit market, that smokers are annoyed by high taxes, and that a minority are happy to buy illicit products.

MORE FROM AEI

4 charts that show how life is getting better for the average American
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Michael Rosen | AEIdeas

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Desmond Lachman | AEI event today at 10:00 AM ET

Report: Consumption poverty fell from 3.4 percent to 3 percent in 2016
Bruce D. Meyer and James X. Sullivan | Notre Dame Lab for Economic Opportunities

How hockey prepared me for the White House

Marc A. Thiessen | USA Hockey

AEI in the news: Thomas Miller on 5 things to know about Sen. Bernie Sanders' (I-VT) single-payer plan

Peter Sullivan | The Hill

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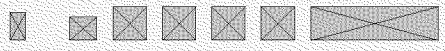
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Sent: Fri 9/15/2017 9:43:03 AM
Subject: Morning Energy: Unfilled vacancies still worry GOP senators — Trump, Scott still doubt climate change post-hurricanes — EPA to reconsider coal ash regulation

By Anthony Adragna | 09/15/2017 05:41 AM EDT

With help from Alex Guillén

GOP STILL ANXIOUS OVER AGENCY VACANCIES: President Donald Trump's administration has been more active in recent weeks in formally nominating people to host of vacant energy and environmental posts throughout the federal government, but members of his party still aren't satisfied with the pace. In conversations with 10 GOP senators, most said there were still numerous vacancies hampering the president's ability to implement his agenda. Here's what a couple of them had to say:

— **John Barrasso, EPW chairman:** "The pace has picked up, and I'm encouraged by that. I still am looking forward to getting the nominations for the Bureau of Land Management, Fish & Wildlife [and] of course the National Park Service. So there are still some critical ones out there that need to come forward."

— **Shelly Moore Capito, another EPW member:** "I still think we have too many vacancies."

— **Jerry Moran, also on EPW,** said there are too many instances where senators can't find the right person at an agency because they haven't been nominated. "I'm pleased to see any movement, which we're seeing from the White House, in the nominations and I hope we can — without objections from Democrats — take up those nominations as they arrive."

— **Lisa Murkowski, Energy chairwoman,** cautioned that while the pace of names had increased recently, "we've got to get them through the whole process."

Carper raises concerns: EPW ranking member Tom Carper said in a statement EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt "must follow through with the answers he assured us he would provide during his own confirmation hearing before we move forward with additional nominees" after meeting with four nominees slated to have confirmation hearings next week. But Barrasso told ME "we're going to continue" to process nominations regardless of those concerns.

HAPPY MIDWAY POINT OF SEPTEMBER! I'm your host Anthony Adragna, and Meguire Whitney's Elizabeth K. Whitney was first to identify James K. Polk as our only speaker to ever become president. For today: What's the only current state where both senators share the same first name? Send your tips, energy gossip and comments to aadragna@politico.com, or follow us on Twitter @AnthonyAdragna, @Morning_Energy, and @POLITICOPro.

TRUMP SHRUGS OFF CLIMATE LINK TO HURRICANES: After visiting Florida on Thursday, Trump told reporters aboard Air Force One he saw no link between climate change and Hurricanes Harvey and Irma, which devastated much of the southern U.S., Pro's Emily

Holden reports. "We did have two horrific storms, epic storms," he said. "But if you go back into the '30s and '40s, and you go back into the Teens, you'll see storms that were very similar and even bigger, OK?"

Scott too: Even after twice touring the storm-ravaged Florida Keys this week, Florida Gov. Rick Scott still won't say if he believes man-made climate change is real, POLITICO Florida's Marc Caputo reports. "Clearly our environment changes all the time, and whether that's cycles we're going through or whether that's man-made, I wouldn't be able to tell you which one it is," the governor (and Trump's preferred Florida Senate candidate) said.

Two Superfund sites need work: EPA officials have now examined 30 of the 90 affected Superfund sites in Florida and concluded two of them in Jacksonville — Fairfax Wood Treating and U.S. Naval Air Station Cecil Field — require follow up work due to flooding in the area.

ANOTHER EPA RULE RECONSIDERED: Pruitt has granted separate petitions of AES Puerto Rico and the Utility Solid Waste Activities Group to reconsider aspects of the agency's 2015 coal ash regulation, Pro's Alex Guillén reports. USWAG asked that pending deadlines be pushed back and called for the rule to be changed in the wake of a December 2016 law changing the enforcement scheme, while AES' petition centered on how utilities could store the residue from coal-fired power generation on site. "In light of EPA's new statutory authority, it is important that we give the existing rule a hard look and consider improvements that may help states tailor their permit programs to the needs of their states, in a way that provides greater regulatory certainty, while also ensuring that human health and the environment remain protected," Pruitt said in a statement, referring to provisions in last year's water infrastructure law.

Environmentalists bashed the decision to reopen the rule, which took almost six years to develop, as endangering human health and the environment. "This decision is a galling giveaway to industrial polluters, even by this Administration's standards of pandering to industry at the expense of the public," Earthjustice attorney Lisa Evans said in a statement. They vowed to fight moves to undermine the regulation, though Pruitt's EPA is likely to ask a federal appeals court case with oral arguments currently scheduled for Oct. 17 be put on hold while it reconsiders the rule.

MINING INDUSTRY HEADED TO TRUMP HOTEL: The National Mining Association confirmed to ME a report in The Intercept that it will host its private conference next month at the Trump International Hotel in Washington. "We evaluated information from five different venues and this was the only venue able to accommodate a group of our size and our meeting requirements on our desired dates," a spokeswoman said. Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke is slated to address the group at the hotel.

SCIENCE PANEL WANTS FACE-TO-FACE WITH PRUITT: EPA's Science Advisory Board, the influential group of scientists who weigh in on key science issues, have invited Administrator Scott Pruitt to a meeting "to share your vision of the SAB's ongoing role in providing scientific advice and to hear about your priorities for the Environmental Protection Agency," according to a letter sent this week. The meeting will "allow for a dialog on how best

the SAB can work to ensure the highest quality science supports Agency's policies and decisions," wrote SAB Chair Peter Thorne. It's not unusual for administrators to appear before the SAB on occasion; Gina McCarthy, for example, spoke to SAB in April 2016.

Elephant in the room: EPA is currently taking public comment on 132 nominees for SAB. It has 48 slots, with 15 opening up at the end of the month. The current SAB is dominated by academics, but also has members from state agencies, private companies and environmental groups. Comments are due Sept. 28.

GOTTA START SOMEWHERE: The White House Council on Environmental Quality took the first step Thursday toward implementing Trump's August executive order aimed at speeding the environmental reviews of infrastructure projects with the release of a work plan, Pro's Emily Holden reports. Among the steps to come: Work with other groups to create a framework for the "One Federal Decision" process, coordination to identify high-priority projects and the issuance of guidance to speed the NEPA process.

LET'S GET TOGETHER? Murkowski told reporters Trump had invited her over for lunch last Friday, but she had to bow out due to a commitment in Alaska. She viewed the invite, though, as a sign that their relationship could be productive in the aftermath of her vote against health care legislation. (She wasn't sure if it was a solo invite.) "I don't think there's a sourness," she said. "If there were, I don't think he would continue to be engaging."

PERDUE STICKING WITH CLOVIS: Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue voiced his enthusiastic support for Sam Clovis' nomination to be USDA's top scientist hours after Senate Agriculture Chairman Pat Roberts suggested he would leave the fate of the controversial pick to the administration, Pro Agriculture's Helena Bottemiller Evich reports . "President Trump made a good choice in nominating Dr. Sam Clovis and he has my full support," Perdue said. Clovis has raised eyebrows for his climate skepticism and lack of scientific background, among other issues.

NEW YORK OPPOSES SOLAR TRADE PETITION: With just a week to go until the International Trade Commission votes on whether to slap imported solar products with steep tariffs, New York state added its voice to those opposing the petitions of Suniva and SolarWorld Americas Inc. "If the relief requested by the Petitioners were to be ultimately granted, New York State's residential, small commercial, and industrial-scale PV projects would all substantially contract or disappear," Richard Kauffman, the state's energy czar, wrote. "Rather than grow to 12,000 jobs by 2021, the industry would be able to support just half the number of jobs it supports today."

UTAH GOVERNOR: ZINKE INDICATED MONUMENT DOWNSIZING: Utah Gov. Gary Herbert told local reporters Thursday that Zinke had indicated to him that Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument was an "abuse of the Antiquities Act" and said he thought it should be carved up "into smaller monuments — two or three." In addition, Herbert said the "indication" on Bears Ears National Monument is it will be shrunk down. The Trump administration has not said when it plans to release Zinke's recommendations publicly, though rumblings are it could come as soon as today.

ICYMI: Democrats and taxpayer advocates are concerned industry has an outsized role on the 20-member advisory committee named by Zinke to review royalty rates that oil, natural gas and coal companies pay for access to federal land and water, Pro's Ben Lefebvre reports. The group includes five energy company representatives and six others members who hail from energy-friendly, GOP-led local governments, but critics say it lacks adequate public interest group or Democratic representation.

EPA TOP LAWYER NOMINEE REPRESENTED BASF, FORD, UTILITY: Matt Leopold, President Donald Trump's nominee for EPA general counsel, has represented several regulated companies in recent years, including a leading chemical manufacturer, automaker and utility, according to a financial disclosure posted by the National Law Journal. Leopold has been an attorney at the Tallahassee-based Carlton Fields since 2015, and his client roster, according to the disclosure, included chemical giant BASF, automaker Ford Motor Company and utility Florida Power & Light. Leopold also listed analysis firm Resource Environmental Solutions; Comanco Environmental Corporation, which builds containment systems; and sand miner Edgar Minerals. He was previously general counsel for the Florida Department of Environmental Protection. Leopold and other EPA nominees will get a hearing Wednesday.

WOTUS-LINKED JUDGE ADVANCES: North Dakota District Judge Ralph Erickson, who gained national attention (at least among energy watchers) when he placed the Obama administration's waters of the U.S. regulation on ice back in 2015, saw his nomination to 8th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals advance through the Senate Judiciary Committee on Thursday. The vote was 20-0. Democrat Heidi Heitkamp praised the action as "great news" following the hearing.

REPORT: RAPID ACTION NEEDED TO ADDRESS CLIMATE CHANGE: Limiting global temperature increases to less than 2 degrees Celsius cannot be done by reducing carbon dioxide emissions alone and additional action must be taken by 2020, according to a report and peer-reviewed paper out late Thursday from 33 climate policy experts. Policymakers must also drastically reduce short-lived super climate pollutants, such as HFCs and methane, by 2020 and undertake atmospheric carbon extraction. "Scientists have many ideas about how to reduce emissions, but they all agree on the urgency of strong and decisive action to remove carbon from the economy," California Gov. Jerry Brown said in a statement about the study.

MAIL CALL! WHAT'S THE DEAL WITH THOSE EPA CUTS? Six EPW Democrats, led by Carper, asked EPA in a Thursday letter to provide additional information on its intended workforce reductions. They expressed concern that implementing the Trump's administration already proposed cuts and "further White House direction to plan for additional longer term down-sizing would damage EPA's ability to carry out its Congressionally-mandated mission to protect public health and the environment."

DEMOCRATS FIGHT WOTUS REPEAL: Twenty-one members of the Senate Democratic caucus, led by Ben Cardin and Carper, urged Pruitt and the Army Corps of Engineers in a letter released Thursday to reconsider plans to scrap the Obama administration's Waters of the U.S. regulation. "For an administration to change the definition of what constitutes a water of the

United States almost immediately upon entering office creates more, not less, regulatory uncertainty," they wrote. "We need stability and certainty for our constituents to be safe and our economy to grow."

LAWSUIT CHALLENGES EFFICIENCY ROLLBACK: Democracy Forward, representing the Natural Resources Defense Council, filed a lawsuit Thursday challenging the Trump administration's decision to stay two provisions of a January air conditioning efficiency rule. The lawsuit argues the rule had already gone into effect when DOE issued the stay and that the agency failed to adequately explain its decision.

GROUP SLAMS TRUMP'S CHEMICALS NOMINEE: The Environmental Working Group released a report today arguing Michael Dourson, Trump's nominee to run EPA's chemicals division, has "consistently fought to weaken proposals to protect our families from dangerous chemicals, including chemicals linked to cancer, brain damage and reproductive harm." Read it here.

MORE SUPPORT FOR NORTHAM IN VIRGINIA: A broad array of liberal groups, including the Tom Steyer-backed Next Gen America and the Virginia League of Conservation Voters PAC, are joining forces in a $2 million campaign to boost Democratic Lt. Gov. Ralph Northam for governor, Pro Campaign's Kevin Robillard reports. The digital ads, which begin running this week through the election, aim to reach and turn out more than 1.2 million voters.

GREENS, SPORTSMEN TEAM UP: The Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation and the National Wildlife Federation have signed a memorandum of understanding in hopes of advancing wildlife conservation and access to public lands.

MOVER, SHAKER: Tracy Stone-Manning is the new associate vice president for public lands at the National Wildlife Federation. She was previously Montana Gov. Steve Bullock's chief-of-staff and before that his director of the Department of Environmental Quality.

Doug Little, an Arizona Corporation Commissioner, has accepted the position of deputy assistant secretary for intergovernmental and external affairs at DOE. "I have enjoyed serving Arizona and look forward to this tremendous opportunity to influence energy policy at the national level," he said in a statement. First elected in 2014 (more on that here), Little served as chairman of the commission last year and also joined the board of directors for the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners. He starts Oct. 2.

QUICK HITS

— EPA won't release benzene levels collected post-Harvey; private tests show elevated levels. Texas Tribune.

— Mexico court temporarily blocks higher ethanol in gasoline -activist. Reuters.

— EPA Will Let Houston Lab's Lease Expire In 2020, Agency Says. TPM.

— How to make $240,000 in 6 months by being friends with Rick Perry. Think Progress.

— Pennsylvania coal production up by 20 percent from 2016. Tribune-Review.

— North Korea conflict could cripple these oil and chemical facilities. CNBC.

— Floating Tar, Dead Fish: Oil Spill Threatens Greek Beaches. New York Times.

HAPPENING TODAY

12:00 p.m. — "Battery Storage and the Power Sector," National Capital Area Chapter of the United States Association for Energy Economics, Carmine's, 425 7th St NW

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https://www.politicopro.com/tipsheets/morning-energy/2017/09/unfilled-vacancies-still-worry-gop-senators-024607

Stories from POLITICO Pro

Trump on climate change: 'We've had bigger storms' Back

By Emily Holden | 09/14/2017 04:36 PM EDT

President Donald Trump on Thursday discounted any link between climate change and the intense hurricanes that ravaged Florida and the Gulf Coast while talking to reporters aboard Air Force One on his return from storm-stricken Fort Myers and Naples

"We've had bigger storms than this," Trump said when asked if the highly destructive Hurricane Harvey and record-breaking Hurricane Irma were changing his views of climate change.

Trump said storms from the 1910s, 1930s and 1940s were worse.

Members of Trump's cabinet have repeatedly said that now is not the time to talk about climate change, which is predicted to make hurricanes more intense, increase rainfall totals and put coastal communities at higher risk to storm surges as sea levels rise.

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Trump pushes Rick Scott to run for Senate during Irma recovery visit Back

By Nolan D. McCaskill | 09/14/2017 11:39 AM EDT

President Donald Trump traveled to southwest Florida with a message for the people of Fort Myers, who are recovering from Hurricane Irma: Rick Scott for Senate.

Trump, first lady Melania Trump and Vice President Mike Pence flew to Florida on Thursday morning to visit Fort Myers and Naples, two Gulf Coast cities that Irma tore through earlier this week.

Trump acknowledged the devastation in brief remarks he delivered in Fort Myers ahead of a briefing from state and local officials.

"We're gonna see some more of it now, unfortunately," he lamented.

"I have to say that your governor — where is our governor here? Rick Scott," Trump said, pausing for applause of the Republican governor. "The job he's done is incredible, and I guess I've been very lucky because, you know, you have a great governor in Texas; you have a great governor in Florida. The job that Rick has done is being talked about all over."

Trump offered more praise of Scott, who he has continued to nudge to challenge incumbent Democratic Sen. Bill Nelson in 2018, taking advantage of Thursday's backdrop of a recovering city.

"I just, again, I have to say that — what do I know? But I hope this man right here, Rick Scott, runs for the Senate," Trump said.

Scott has publicly said he is weighing a Senate run, but he has insisted that he feels little pressure to make an early decision. And Trump is unsure whether the governor ultimately will run.

"I don't know what he's gonna do, but I know that at a certain point it ends for you, and we can't let it end," Trump said. "So I hope he runs for Senate. Who knows what he's gonna do?"

Thursday marks the second time the president has publicly asked Scott to run. In June, during an announcement about Cuba regulations in Miami, Trump urged the governor to challenge Nelson.

The president helicoptered to Naples later Thursday, flying low enough to see some of the flood damage throughout the region. Irma dropped more than a foot of rain in parts of South Florida over the weekend, and Naples was hit with the storm's strongest winds — which registered at up to 142 miles per hour, according to the National Weather Service.

He spoke to homeowners and handed out handshakes and hoagies to community members.

"They're too small," the president remarked as he yanked off his thin plastic gloves and resumed shaking hands.

He asked a buff man if he was "a workout guy" and encouraged him to "keep it up." And he questioned whether one woman who was holding a small dog was a biker, noting that "the bikers

love us."

The president also shook the hand of a man who asked where former President Barack Obama was the last time the area was hit with a hurricane. "On the golf course!" the man answered.

Trump asked if the man had voted for him. "Best vote of your life?" he wondered. He then turned to the press. "Don't report that," he said, smiling. "That's good news."

The president ended his trip the same way it began: with a tweet.

"Just left Florida for D.C.," Trump announced. "The people and spirit in THAT GREAT STATE is unbelievable. Damage horrific but will be better than ever!"

Marc Caputo and Kevin Robillard contributed to this report.

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Pruitt to reconsider parts of 2015 coal ash rule Back

By Alex Guillén | 09/14/2017 04:15 PM EDT

EPA will reconsider key portions of the 2015 coal ash rule, according to a letter from Administrator Scott Pruitt to industry officials released by Earthjustice.

Two petitions were filed in May by AES Puerto Rico and the Utility Solid Waste Activities Group, an umbrella group whose members include the Edison Electric Institute, National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, American Public Power Association and more than a hundred utilities and related companies.

Pruitt's letter does not specify which parts of the rule he plans to reconsider, but both USWAG and AES identified specific issues with the regulation.

USWAG's petition asked that pending deadlines be pushed back and called for the rule to be changed in the wake of a December 2016 law changing the enforcement scheme in order to accommodate new management options based on site-specific risk analyses rather than the original "burdensome, inflexible, and often impracticable requirements." USWAG also argued that various executive orders from President Donald Trump dealing with regulations justify cracking the rule open.

AES' petition focused on requirements for how power plants store their coal ash piles before they are moved off site to be disposed of or to make products such as concrete and wallboard.

Oral arguments at the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals over the rule are currently scheduled for

Oct. 17, but EPA is likely to ask the case be put on hold while it reconsiders the rule.

WHAT'S NEXT: Pruitt will initiate a formal reconsideration process. Any actual changes to the rule will have to go through public comment and will be open to legal challenge.

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White House outlines plan for expediting environmental reviews Back

By Emily Holden | 09/14/2017 06:12 PM EDT

The White House took its first step toward speeding environmental reviews for infrastructure projects today, with the Council on Environmental Quality releasing a work plan in response to President Donald Trump's August executive order.

CEQ in a fact sheet called the current review and permitting process "fragmented, inefficient and predictable," saying "projects often involve numerous federal agencies, overlapping statutory requirements, and duplicative or redundant processes."

The Trump administration has attacked reviews under the National Environmental Policy Act for holding up projects. In a June speech at the Department of Transportation, Trump threw binders full of highway environmental reviews on the floor, calling them "nonsense."

CEQ said the median timeline for issuing environmental impact statements is four years, but some take more than 10 years. Trump's order directs agencies to try to complete reviews within two years, issue a single decision that represents all agencies and provide permits within 90 days.

CEQ said it will:

— work with the Office of Management and Budget and Federal Permitting Improvement Steering Council to create a framework for the "One Federal Decision" process laid out in Trump's order.

— coordinate with the Council, DOT and the Army Corps of Engineers to identify high-priority projects.

— review its own regulations on implementing NEPA.

— issue guidance to speed the NEPA process.

— form an interagency working group to review regulations that may bog down reviews and permitting.

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Roberts looks to Perdue, Trump to make call on Clovis' nomination Back

By Catherine Boudreau | 09/14/2017 01:27 PM EDT

Senate Agriculture Chairman Pat Roberts said today he is leaving the fate of controversial USDA nominee Sam Clovis up to Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue and President Donald Trump.

Roberts told reporters today the committee will move forward "expeditiously" with Clovis' nomination to be USDA's chief scientist if "that is the desire of the secretary and the president."

Roberts said the committee hasn't received all of Clovis' paperwork, which is why a confirmation hearing has not been scheduled.

The committee has a "few outstanding asks" for publications and other materials, spokeswoman Meghan Cline told POLITICO in an email.

Clovis, the nominee for USDA undersecretary for research, education and economics, has come under fire from Democrats and environmental groups over what his opponents say is a lack of scientific experience that is required for the job, as well as his skepticism on climate change and a series of controversial past statements — which include racially charged comments about progressives and former President Barack Obama, and about federal protections for the LGBT community.

To view online click here.

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Perdue: Clovis has 'my full support' Back

By Helena Bottemiller Evich | 09/14/2017 05:39 PM EDT

Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue said today that his support for USDA nominee Sam Clovis hasn't wavered.

"President Trump made a good choice in nominating Dr. Sam Clovis and he has my full support," Perdue said through a spokesperson. "I look forward to his hearing, so the committee has the opportunity to get to know him personally."

The comment comes hours after Senate Agriculture Chairman Pat Roberts suggested he is

leaving the fate of the controversial nominee for USDA undersecretary for research, education and economics up to Perdue and President Donald Trump. Roberts told reporters today that the committee will move forward "expeditiously" with Clovis' nomination to be USDA's chief scientist if "that is the desire of the secretary and the president."

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Taxpayer advocate, Democrats see industry tilt on Zinke's royalties panel Back

By Ben Lefebvre | 09/14/2017 03:33 PM EDT

Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke has pledged to increase energy revenue from federal lands, but congressional Democrats and public watchdogs are worried the agency is putting key policy decisions about royalties in the hands of the industry.

Interior officials have said increasing drilling on federal lands would help fulfill President Donald Trump's promise to "usher in a golden age of energy dominance" — and help restore the agency's coffers back to levels seen a decade ago, when they were bolstered by oil prices that flirted with $150 a barrel.

Now, with oil prices under $50 a barrel, the portion of Interior's budget from those revenues has dropped to $6.2 billion, one-quarter of where it was in during the heady market of 2008.

"I will be looking at revenue," Zinke told senators during a June budget hearing, pointing to the federal income from natural gas, oil and wind. "If you're going to operate on public land, then the public should have a say, because we are all stewards of our public lands. We want to make sure we have a fair return. That return should be transparent."

But public interest groups and Democrats say the 20-member advisory committee Zinke named to review royalty rates that oil, natural gas and coal companies pay for access to federal land and water is stocked with industry-linked members.

The committee includes five energy company representatives and six others members who hail from energy-friendly, GOP-led local governments. Critics say it lacks representatives from public interest groups or Democrats who might question whether the public is getting a fair deal from new drilling.

"We should be exploring better royalty structures," Sen. Tom Udall (D-N.M), whose state is the fifth largest oil producer in the country, said in an email. "But I'm skeptical that the royalty policy committee established by Secretary Zinke is structured to ask the most probing and balanced questions to benefit citizens." Udall plans to reintroduce his legislation, S. 2254 (108), next week that would institute royalties on gold, silver and other precious minerals currently excluded from generating royalties.

Ryan Alexander, president of public watchdog group Taxpayers for Common Sense, lauded Zinke's move to restart that commission as an opportunity to make sure taxpayers get a fair return for energy developed on public lands, but its make-up didn't give her confidence that would happen.

"There's a lot of people who know a lot of stuff on that committee," said Alexander, whose nomination to the committee was rejected by Interior. "But there isn't anyone who focuses on taxpayer interest. It is a definitely a concern that this is weighted toward the industry. We're going to be watching carefully."

Republicans have backed Zinke's exclusion of environmental and public interest groups.

"Many of these public interest groups have been driving this debate in court and so forth at the demise of our natural resource industry, and our economies and jobs in places like Montana," Sen. Steve Daines (R-Mont.) told POLITICO. "So it's time to change it up."

Interior's royalty rates dictate the percentage of the proceeds from oil, gas or other energy produced from federal lands or waters that companies must share with the government. The new committee will "provide advice to the Secretary ... on the fair market value of and on the collection of revenues derived from, the development of energy and mineral resources on Federal and Indian lands," according to the charter Zinke approved in March.

Oil production on federal lands reached an all-time high of 580 million barrels in 2016 from the surge in offshore production, according to data from the Office of Natural Resources Revenue, an overall increase of 33 percent from 2008.

Even as oil production surged, oil revenues flowing to Interior dropped to $2.8 billion, however, the lowest point since 2005, largely because of weak market prices. U.S. oil averaged $43.29 per barrel last year, less than half the price in 2014.

Natural gas volumes have fallen by a a third since 2008, with most of the drop because of offshore drillers' shift to more profitable oil production. And coal production on federal land fell by a third between 2008 and 2016, following electric utilities' switching to cheaper natural gas.

Interior's decisions on royalties have a major impact on state budgets. In 2016, Wyoming received $684 million from federal leases, nearly one-quarter of the state's $3 billion budget that year, while New Mexico got $386 million, about 6 percent of the state's total budget.

Interior lowered the minimum royalty payments for oil and gas produced from shallow-water areas of the Gulf of Mexico that it offered in a lease in August. But that cut failed to attract companies to the area, which is largely tapped out of oil and gas from years of development, and only 10 percent of the tracts up for auction were leased.

Interior has also rolled back an Obama-era rule on assessing the value of coal from federal lands that required mining companies to use the price they sold the coal at on the open market — not

to affiliate companies they may have sold it to at a steep discount. Zinke's move did away with a rule that the department estimated would increase Interior's coal royalty revenues by up to $85 million a year, but that coal companies complained was too burdensome.

Zinke's appointments to the committee include employees of ConocoPhillips, Anadarko Petroleum and the National Ocean industries Association, a trade group representing offshore drilling companies.

He also included Matthew Adams, vice president of taxation at Cloud Peak Energy, a Wyoming-based coal company that donated $10,000 to Zinke's PAC in 2016. Cloud Peak paid the department $80 million in royalties last year, according to government data.

Interior Department spokeswoman Heather Swift called the commission members "eminently qualified individuals," and added that Cloud Point Energy's donation to Zinke's PAC was "absolutely not" a factor in appointing a company representative the commission.

Another member of the committee is John Sweeney, an investor relations executive at VWR Corp., a Pennsylvania-based company that provides laboratory services to the pharmaceutical, biotech, industrial and healthcare industries.

Sweeney nominated himself to the commission and was appointed because of "his education and experience in business connecting investors with developers," Swift said. Sweeney did not reply to messages seeking comment.

Swift also pointed to the native American tribes on the commission as operating some renewable energy projects. Those tribes on the board are also heavily invested in oil, gas and coal projects. The Navajo Nation, whose president Russell Begaye is on the royalty commission, runs the largest coal-fired power plant in the western United States, and Begaye wrote an op-ed in March asking for government assistance to keep plant from shutting.

Zinke promised to appoint up to four members representing "academia and public interest" groups when he announced plans for the commission, and he has stressed the importance of public oversight on royalties.

But the sole slot that was allotted in the end for a representative for the public interest went to Daniel Rusz , a coal expert from energy industry consulting group Wood MacKenzie.

Interior's Swift initially said the choice came about because "no groups identifying themselves as public interest were nominated or self-nominated." She didn't address the rejection of the Taxpayers for Common Sense nomination, but said the group was "still permitted to attend the public meetings and the public comments are taken into consideration in decision making processes."

The commission also doesn't include any local government representatives identified as Democrats or nominated by Democratic governors. No one from Colorado or California was appointed, despite those two states producing more energy resources from federal lands than

Alaska or Texas.

Gov. Steve Bullock, the Democratic head of Zinke's home state of Montana, nominated a Montana Department of Natural Resources employee who helps manage 6.2 million acres in the state that received $23 million in royalties from Interior in 2016, though that nominee was rejected. Interior did name a Montana representative as an alternate board member in case a sitting member drops out.

Instead, Interior appointed a Clinton Carter, Alabama's Republican state finance director. Alabama received $1.9 million in royalties from the department in 2016.

The lack of public accountability advocates on the board threatens to undermine its purpose of helping Interior increase public revenue, House Natural Resources committee ranking member Raul Grijalva (D-Ariz.) said in a letter to Zinke.

Appointing a committee dominated by the fossil fuel industry with no public interest voices does not build "greater trust and transparency," Grijalva said in his letter, adding that the committee "should not be allowed to act as a fig leaf for actions designed solely to favor the interests of drilling and mining companies."

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Liberal groups pour $2M into Virginia governor digital ads Back

By Kevin Robillard | 09/14/2017 10:00 AM EDT

A slew of liberal groups are teaming up for a $2 million digital ad buy aiming to drive Virginia voters to the polls in November and back Democratic Lt. Gov. Ralph Northam for governor.

Planned Parenthood Votes and Planned Parenthood Virginia PAC, the Tom Steyer-backed Next Gen America, Priorities USA Action and the Virginia League of Conservation Voters PAC are all contributing hundreds of thousands of dollars to the effort, which will begin this week and run until Election Day. The ads will aim to reach and turn out more than 1.2 million voters.

"When it comes to women's health in Virginia, everything is on the line, which is why we are doubling down to elect progressive champion Ralph Northam," said Deirdre Schifeling, the executive director of Planned Parenthood Votes. "We are pushing boundaries with the most coordinated and innovative digital program we've seen on this scale. This cutting edge digital program in Virginia will set a new precedent for coordinated investment and execution of a digital media program to reach, persuade and mobilize voters in a statewide race."

Planned Parenthood's ads, the first to be released, tout Northam as a "true champion for women's health" who will fight to expand Medicaid and attack Republican gubernatorial candidate Ed

Gillespie for saying he would like "to see abortion be banned."

The groups are touting the buy as an unprecedented effort from liberal groups to coordinate their digital spending. The groups are sharing data and working together to develop messaging, voter contact timelines and dividing targeted audiences.

Democrats have often worked together to coordinate their television and mail efforts, but digital efforts have sometimes been more scattershot.

Priorities, which was the main super PAC backing Democratic presidential nominee Hillary Clinton in 2016, hopes to replicate the effort in other states with competitive races in 2018.

"For years, Democrats have worked together on TV advertising and field, but fallen behind on digital advertising. Progressives can and must work together if we are going to make electoral gains in 2017, 2018 and beyond, and this first-of-its-kind coordinated digital effort is going to provide us a blueprint moving forward," said Patrick McHugh, executive director of Priorities USA Action. "Working closely together will allow us to efficiently deliver complimentary messages using the same data and targeting to ensure we're all working toward the same shared goal without duplicating or competing efforts."

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From: POLITICO
Sent: Tue 11/21/2017 1:50:09 AM
Subject: BREAKING NEWS: FCC to seek total repeal of net neutrality rules, sources say

FCC Chairman Ajit Pai will reveal plans to his fellow commissioners on Tuesday to fully dismantle the agency's Obama-era net neutrality regulations, people familiar with the plans said, in a major victory for the telecom industry in the long-running policy debate.

Trump-appointed Pai's plan would scrap the agency's core net neutrality rules, which prohibit internet service providers like Comcast or Verizon from blocking or slowing web traffic or negotiating paid deals with websites for "fast lanes" to consumers. The FCC will vote on the change in December.

Read more: https://www.politico.com/story/2017/11/20/net-neutrality-repeal-fcc-251824

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To: Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
From: Morning Media
Sent: Fri 9/15/2017 9:39:56 AM
Subject: Morning Media: Big tech's big problems -- 'Glamour' editor exits, 'Time' gets new chief -- Trump to '60 Minutes'?

By Alex Weprin | 09/15/2017 05:38 AM EDT

BIG TECH'S BIG PROBLEMS: This month has been a rough one for large technology companies like Facebook and Google. It seems as though every day there is a new headline and a new negative story, whether it was Russia's use of Facebook to promote fake news, or Google forcing a think-tank it funds to part ways with staff that are critical of the giant. Unfortunately for them, the negative stories continued to flow into Thursday.

-This ProPublica report made waves after it was published Thursday afternoon: "Until this week, when we asked Facebook about it, the world's largest social network enabled advertisers to direct their pitches to the news feeds of almost 2,300 people who expressed interest in the topics of 'Jew hater,' 'How to burn jews,' or, 'History of 'why jews ruin the world.'"

-Twitter co-founder Ev Williams told CNN that social media is in the midst of a "junk information epidemic," driven by companies looking to milk every advertising dollar they can generate, even if it means that quality content is lost in the shuffle "Attention gets rewarded -- not quality of information," said Williams. "[Ad-driven platforms] are benefiting from people generating attention at pretty much any cost," he said..

-Google was hit with a gender bias lawsuit Thursday, with three former female staffers claiming that the company "systematically discriminates against women in pay and promotions," according to Wired.

-Apple, which debuted a slew of new products early this week, found itself in the crosshairs of six advertising trade groups Thursday. The reason? It's new version of the Safari web browser will automatically block access to "cookies" from the user, significantly reducing the data advertisers have access to.

Good morning and welcome to Morning Media. I always want to improve Morning Media and make it more useful to you, so please send me tips, ideas and feedback! I'm on Twitter **@alexweprin** and on email at **alexweprin@gmail.com**. Morning Media is produced with help from **Cristiano Lima (clima@politico.com / @ludacristiano)**. **Archives**. **Subscribe.**

CINDI LEIVE IS RETIRING: What a week for magazine celebri-editor retirements! On Thursday, Glamour editor Cindi Leive announced to her staff that she would be stepping down, after 16 years running the Condé Nast publication. As was the case with her colleague Graydon Carter, she broke the news in The New York Times . "As in all things magazine related, damn Graydon got there first," she quipped to the Times' Katherine Rosman. Will she make time to join some of her newly-freed up colleagues Carter, Gibbs and Myers? "That's a pretty nice outgoing class to be in, I'll take it," she said. "We can all hang out in the corner booth somewhere." Oh, speaking of Time...

TIME'S NEW EDITOR IS EDWARD FELSENTHAL: Felsenthal had been the magazine's digital editor since 2013. He will be the 18th person to lead the publication, succeeding Nancy Gibbs, who stepped down Tuesday. Felsenthal served as The Daily Beast's executive editor at its launch, and previously worked at The Wall Street Journal.

ALSO: Fox News says it has signed "Fox News Sunday" moderator Chris Wallace to a new, long-term contract. Wallace will continue to host the show and contribute to election coverage. Comedy Central has inked a new deal with "Daily Show" host Trevor Noah. It will keep him at the helm of the show through 2022.

DID ESPN TRY TO SIDELINE JEMELE HILL? According to ThinkProgress' Lindsay Gibbs , ESPN tried to sideline "Sportscenter" anchor Jemele Hill on Wednesday, in the middle of a controversy surrounding tweets she sent calling President Trump a "white supremacist," among other things. "ESPN originally tried to keep Hill off the air on Wednesday evening, but [co-host Michael] Smith refused to do the show without her, the sources said. Both sources also said that producers reached out to two other black ESPN hosts, Michael Eaves and Elle Duncan, to ask them to serve as fill-ins for the show - but Eaves and Duncan did not agree to take the place of Hill and Smith, either."

-ESPN, for its part, strongly denied the report, with ESPN's communications chief Chris LaPlaca tweeting: "We never asked any other anchors to do last night's show. Period."

TRUMP TO "60 MINUTES?": According to BuzzFeed News' Steven Perlberg , President Trump is likely to appear on the iconic CBS newsmagazine sometime this fall. CBS wants him for the Sept. 24 50th season premiere (which will also see Oprah Winfrey's first report as a "60 Minutes" correspondent), but right now it sounds like it will likely be later on. Why go on "60 Minutes"? Well, for all the talk of bypassing the media via Twitter, some legacy media outlets still pack a punch, and "60 Minutes" is one of them. 50 seasons in, it is the most-watched news program on TV, routinely averaging more than 15 million viewers during its season. Trump is also said to have enjoyed Steve Bannon's appearance on the program.

-Related: Sean Spicer was ratings gold for Jimmy Kimmel. His appearance helped deliver the show's highest ratings in six months, excluding the post-NBA Finals specials.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY! Forbes Magazine turns 100 years old today. The Forbes executive team rang the opening bell of The New York Stock Exchange on Wednesday to celebrate. We'll be at the magazine's 100th birthday party next week, so keep your eye out for that report... **Norah O'Donnell celebrates five years as co-anchor of "CBS This Morning" today**. The program's ratings are up 46%, as this Marie Claire piece notes.

SINCLAIR PUNCHES BACK AT WEATHER CRITICISM: Following a new campaign targeting its proposed merger with Tribune Media, Sinclair is responding to its claims that it has a history of slashing weather reporting. The campaign used Hurricane's Harvey and Irma to attack the proposed deal as putting lives at risk. "Sinclair recognizes the life-saving role local weather coverage plays in times of emergencies and to suggest that Sinclair would ever put the

well-being of our viewers at risk by cutting local weather coverage is absurd," vp news Scott Livingston said in a statement to THR . "Over-the-air broadcasting provides critical information during crises and we remain committed to providing this essential information to our local communities."

MUST READ:

-This piece in The Atlantic about "The David Carr Generation" is just fantastic. The author, Mikaela LeFrak, speaks to more than a dozen of Carr's mentees, including Jake Tapper, Brian Stelter and Carr's daughter Erin Lee Carr, about his impact on their lives and careers.

REVOLVING DOOR:

-Ben Mullin is joining The Wall Street Journal as a reporter covering digital media and advertising. He had been managing editor of Poynter.

-Rachel Zarrell is re-joining BuzzFeed as new initiatives lead.

-Chris Chafin has been hired as senior publicity manager for BBC Global News Limited, overseeing PR for BBC World Service and BBC World News. He had been with the FT.

EXTRAS:

-The Washington Post will host a live taping of its "Can He Do That?" podcast featuring Bob Woodward, David Fahrenthold and Karen Tumulty at the Warner Theater Nov. 7.

-The New Yorker's Evan Osnos explains the reporting process behind his story on North Korea and nuclear war.

-Hey look, former Morning Media author Hadas Gold was profiled by her old local newspaper The Arizona Republic.

-Never a shrinking violet, CBS CEO Les Moonves took shots at Disney, Fox and ESPN at an investor conference Thursday.

-Politicians for Australia's Greens party say that Aussie taxpayers should subsidize international news outlets like The New York Times and BuzzFeed.

-New York Times reporter Mike Isaac is writing a book about Uber.

-Snapchat parent company Snap Inc. has renewed its deal with the Television Academy to provide curated "stories" around the primetime Emmy Awards.

-Apple News is 'pivoting to video' too?

To view online:

http://www.politico.com/media/tipsheets/morning-media/2017/09/15/big-techs-big-problems-glamour-editor-exits-time-gets-new-chief-trump-to-60-minutes-001349

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To: Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
From: Bloomberg BNA
Sent: Tue 11/21/2017 12:58:36 AM
Subject: Nov. 21 -- Daily Environment Report



Daily Environment Report

November 21, 2017 - Number 223

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Leading the News

Drinking Water
Floored by Fluorochemicals: Who Pays to Decontaminate Water?
The mushrooming costs of cleaning a toxic fire-fighting chemical out of water supplies are becoming difficult to bear, according to interviews with water utility officials in cities and towns across the country.

International Climate
Climate Envoys Step Up Pace of Work Without Support from Trump
Envoys from almost 200 nations agreed to step up the pace of their work on reining in global warming even without additional help from the world's richest polluter.

International Climate
Coal Returns as Flashpoint in Global Climate-Change Fight
Coal emerged as the surprise winner from two weeks of international climate talks in Germany, with leaders of the host country and neighboring Poland joining Donald Trump in support of the dirtiest fossil fuel.

International Climate
U.S. Balancing Act May Be More Difficult at 2018 Climate Talks
The U.S. was largely able to pull off a high-wire act at the Bonn climate talks—touting President Donald Trump's coal-friendly agenda while working in closed-door talks to draft rules for Paris climate pact—but could be headed into some heavy crosswinds at next year's summit in Poland.

International Climate
U.S. Could Soon Offer Signal On Coolant Climate Deal
The world is moving forward with reducing greenhouse gas refrigerants, and the deal's momentum could raise questions about whether the Trump administration will join or sit on the sidelines.

News

Air Pollution

China's Quest for Clean Air Is Shaking Up Industry and Inflation

The great Chinese environmental cleanup, now in full swing, is shifting the corporate landscape in unexpected ways and even stoking inflationary pressure that may soon be felt in supply chains worldwide.

Budget

EPA Faces More Cuts in Draft Appropriations Bill in Senate

Republicans included another cut for the Environmental Protection Agency in a draft appropriations bill that also covers the Interior Department and related agencies for fiscal year 2018.

Chemicals

California Targets Methylene Chloride Paint Strippers

Manufacturers of methylene chloride-based paint and varnish strippers may have to use a less toxic solvent to continue selling their products in California.

Coal-Fired Power Plants

EPA Seeks to Resolve Coal Ash Disposal Dispute Out of Court

The EPA is working with industry representatives to rework the disputed coal ash rule outside of court, aiming for more site-specific requirements instead of an overarching framework on where coal combustion residuals end up.

Energy

China Names Top Officials for World's Biggest Power Generator

China Energy Investment Corp. appointed China Guodian Corp. Chairman Qiao Baoping as chairman of the world's biggest power generator Nov. 20.

Energy

Northern Pass Awaits State Action With Federal Permit in Hand

Eversource's proposed $1.6 billion Northern Pass electric transmission line faces fierce, well-organized opposition after recently receiving a federal permit.

Forests

Top Palm Oil Growers Go on Defensive Against EU Curb Threat

As concerns about palm oil's sustainability simmer in Europe, the world's second-biggest grower is ramping up its defense of the most-consumed edible oil.

Hydraulic Fracturing

Driller Disputes Agency Authority Over Fracking in Delaware River Basin

Ten days before the agency that oversees the Delaware River Basin is scheduled to release regulations that could ban the use of water for fracking activities, a would-be Pennsylvania driller argued to a federal court that the watershed manager should have no jurisdiction over natural gas drilling activities at all.

Hydropower

Colbun, Enel Pull Plug on Chile's Biggest Hydropower Project

Investors have officially shelved Chile's largest hydropower project in the face of public and

government opposition and a boom in cut-price renewables.

Oil & Gas

Alternatives to Enbridge Lake Michigan Pipeline Expensive, Risky: Report

Decommissioning an Enbridge pipeline on the bed of Lake Michigan is unfeasible without an alternative, but above-water options would be more expensive and risky, Michigan said in a new report.

Oil & Gas

Keystone XL Approval May Open Door for Foes to Fight New Route

Nebraska's approval of an alternative route could throw more uncertainty into the mix for the long-delayed Keystone XL oil pipeline.

Toxic Substances

3M Faces New Cancer Claims in Minnesota's $5 Billion Toxic Suit

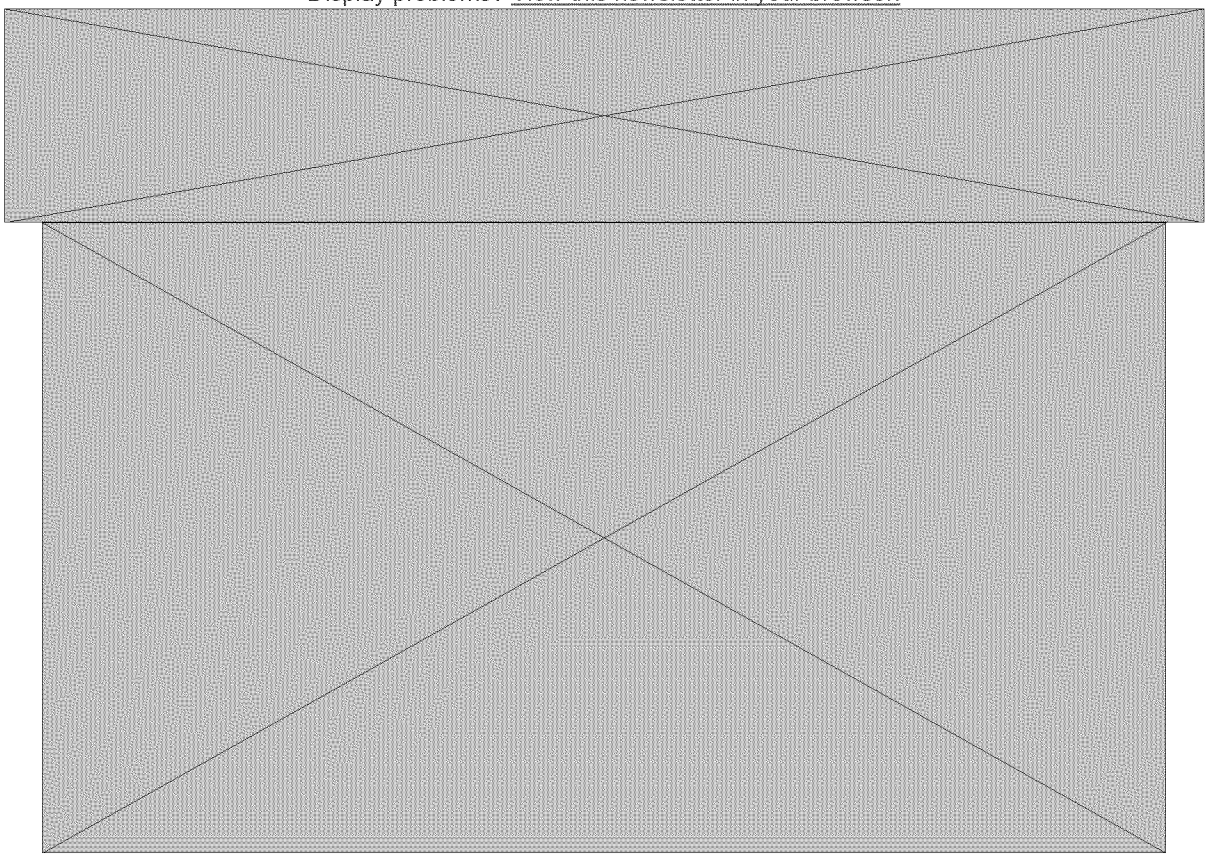
Chemicals once used by 3M Co. for Scotchgard, fire retardants, and other products have shown links to cancers and premature births, Minnesota Attorney General Lori Swanson said in a request to update a $5 billion lawsuit against the company.

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Daily Environment Report for EPA

To: Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
From: GovTechWorks
Sent: Fri 9/15/2017 8:55:30 AM
Subject: How One Agency Bought Into Cloud | Data Strategy Is Essential to Stop Insider Threats | License Plate Readers on the Border

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Close the Data Center: How One Agency Bought into Cloud

The International Trade Administration's leap into cloud services cut costs and improved service in part by redefining the meaning and boundaries of its networks. Read More

Long-Term Data Strategy is Necessary to Stop Insider Threats

Insider threat protection programs accumulate massive storage volumes in order to monitor and track user activity over time. What data organizations choose to collect – and how long they

License Plate Readers

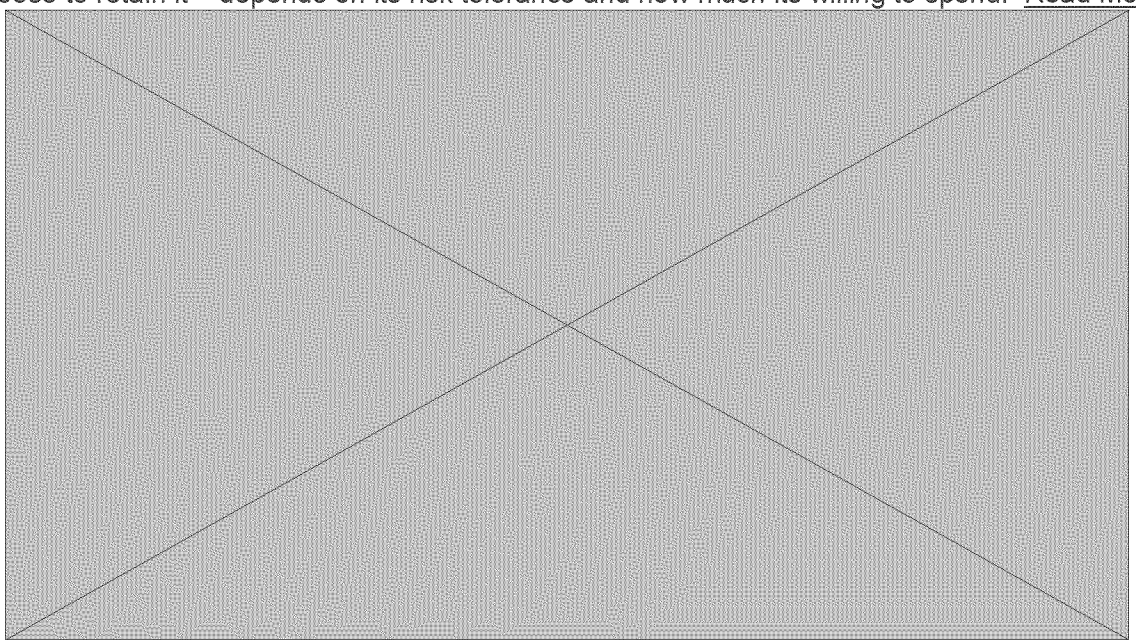
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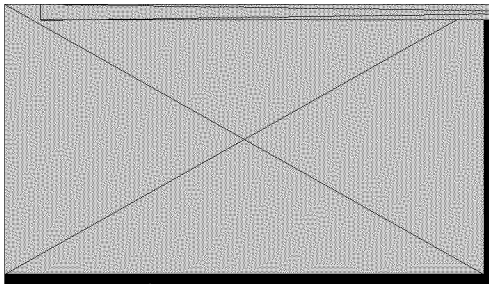
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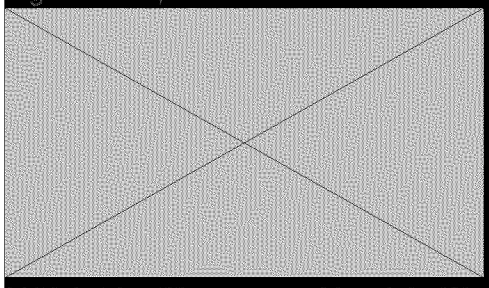
Receive U.S. Border Upgrade

U.S. Customs and Border Protection is planning to upgrade automated license plate readers to help monitor traffic along the northern and southern borders. Recognition technology is reaping rewards and helping reduce cross-border crime. Read More



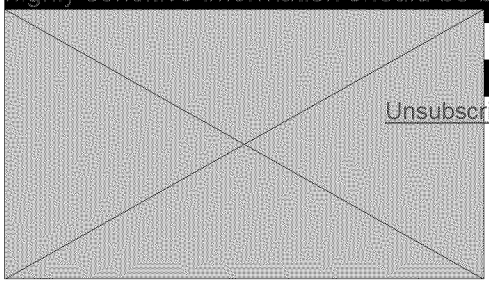
Metrics for Measuring Cyber Effectiveness

Worry about cybersecurity means system owners have multiple tools to help protect their organization, but there is no measurement of one tool's effectiveness over another. Read More



HIPAA's Threat to Health IT

Health IT systems often focus on complying with data privacy concerns. However, protecting highly sensitive information should be baked into every information system. Read More



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NICE Framework Defines Cyber Workforce Needs

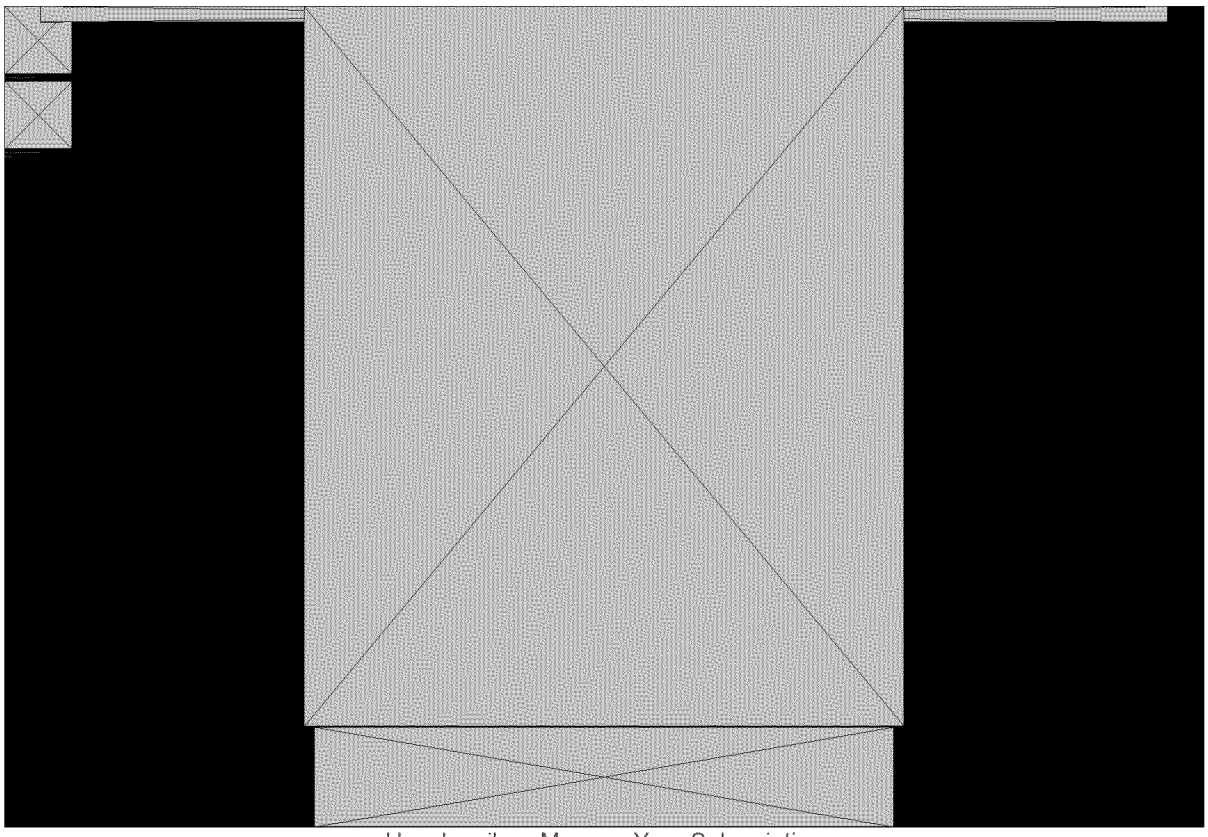
Today's shortage of skilled cybersecurity professionals won't end overnight, but the answer to solving the shortage may be here. Read More

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Upcoming Industry Events





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To: Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
From: Bloomberg BNA
Sent: Fri 9/15/2017 12:42:30 AM
Subject: Sep. 15 -- Daily Environment Report



Daily Environment Report

September 15, 2017 - Number 178

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Leading the News

Climate Regulation
De Blasio Eyes Greenhouse Gas Cuts from City's Buildings
Greenhouse gas emissions from thousands of buildings in New York City would have to be sharply reduced under a plan by Mayor Bill de Blasio (D) targeting the city's top source of heat trapping emissions.

Coal-Fired Power Plants
Coal Refuse Industry Hopes for Help From Congress
Power companies that generate energy from decades-old waste piles they clean up would get a lifeline under a bill House Republicans have started moving forward.

Coastal Zones
Harvey Surge and Few Wetlands Puts Migrating Birds in Tough Spot
Hurricane Harvey not only destroyed towns and flooded homes but also laid waste to precious bird sanctuaries that dot the Texas coast during birds' fall migration.

News

Air Pollution
Petition to EPA Is Path to Expand L.A. Ozone Region: Judges
Los Angeles-area air quality regulators who want to change the way they comply with federal ozone pollution standards may need to persuade the California Air Resources Board to petition the EPA on their behalf, federal appeals court judges suggested Sept. 14.

Biodiversity
Brazil to Protect 10% of Coastal Areas Under Blue Initiative

A new program will help Brazil comply with the United Nations Convention on Biodiversity and expand protection of its coastal and maritime areas from the current 1.5 percent to 10 percent by 2027, its Environment Ministry said.

Boards of Directors

Any Board Ignoring Sustainability Not Doing Its Job, Report Says

When agribusiness Bunge Ltd. bought a stake in a palm oil processor this week, sustainable sourcing was one of the topics that came up in boardroom discussions about the $946 million deal.

Chemicals

California Passes Chemical Disclosure Bill With Industry Support

SC Johnson, Procter & Gamble, Unilever, and other manufacturers of air fresheners, detergents, and other household items would have to disclose potentially harmful ingredients in their products under a bill passed by California lawmakers.

Chemicals

PPG: Look to China for Chemical Solutions to Pollution Problems

China's 2015 tax on paints and coatings containing volatile organic compounds immediately opened market opportunities for PPG, Chief Technology Officer David Bem recently told Bloomberg BNA.

Chemicals

Talks Fail in Bid to Cut Time Reporting Chemicals in Wastes

Industries wanting to limit the time and money they spend reporting chemicals in recycled wastes have more work ahead of them after a committee formed to brainstorm ideas collapsed.

Climate Change

Monster Storms Change Coastlines, Not Minds on Climate Change

Back-to-back hurricanes fueled by warm Atlantic waters may have altered the coasts of Texas and Florida, but there's no indication they are shifting the politics of climate change.

Climate Policy

Carbon Capture Bill Gains Steam But Still Needs Republicans

A bill to boost carbon capture incentives would seem to have the right ingredients to hit the Senate floor: It's backed by both the oil and gas industry and environmentalists and is led by an unlikely alliance of Democratic climate hawks and Republican climate policy critics.

Coal-Fired Power Plants

EPA to Reconsider Obama-Era Coal Ash Regulations

The EPA said it will reconsider "substantive provisions" of a final rule regulating electric power plants' coal combustion residuals as hazardous waste.

Congress

House Clears EPA Funding Bill Full of Poison Pills for Senate

A funding bill passed by the House Sept. 14 offers a more modest cut to environmental programs than sought by the Trump administration but is so laden with poison pill amendments that it will be little more than a starting point for negotiations with Senate Democrats.

Energy

Arizona Regulator to Head Energy Department Government Affairs

Doug Little, the former chairman of Arizona's public utility commission, was appointed to lead the Energy Department's intergovernmental and external affairs work.

Energy

Federal Energy Regulatory Chairman Changes Tune on Coal

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Chairman Neil Chatterjee seemed to back away from previous pro-coal comments today in his first public testimony since taking office in August.

Ozone Depletion

Fastenal Canada Fined $218K for Import, Sale of Ozone Depleters

Major industrial supply firm Fastenal Canada Ltd. will pay C$265,000 ($217,000) in fines for importing and selling in Canada aerosol products containing ozone-depleting substances.

Renewable Energy

Germany's Energy Transition Creates Costly Problems With Grid

Bolstering Germany's renewable output and expanding its electricity grid will be among Chancellor Angela Merkel's priorities if she prevails in upcoming federal elections.

Water Pollution

Judges Weigh Objections to EPA Approach on Cooling Water Intakes

Federal appeals court judges sought to determine why industry and environmental groups object to the EPA's consultation with other agencies about species protection from cooling water intakes.

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Daily Environment Report for EPA

To: Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
From: POLITICO
Sent: Mon 11/20/2017 8:53:25 PM
Subject: BREAKING NEWS: Trump administration to sue to block AT&T-Time Warner deal

The Department of Justice plans to file a lawsuit Monday to block the AT&T-Time Warner merger, according to a source familiar with the matter.

The move to block the mega-deal comes amid a growing political storm over whether the Trump administration has tried to use its review of the merger to force the sale of CNN, a frequent target of the president's media criticism.

Sources familiar with the $85 billion deal told POLITICO earlier this month that the DOJ gave the companies an ultimatum to either sell Time Warner's Turner Broadcasting, which includes CNN as well as networks like TBS and TNT, or shed satellite television provider DirecTV. The sources said it's clear the government's main sticking point is CNN, which Trump often maligns as "fake news."

Trump administration officials have denied any White House interference in the DOJ's review of the deal.

Read more: https://www.politico.com/story/2017/11/20/trump-lawsuit-att-time-warner-merger-250956

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To: Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
From: EPA Press Office
Sent: Mon 11/20/2017 8:05:37 PM
Subject: Terminix Companies Sentenced for Applying Restricted-Use Pesticide to Residencies in the U.S. Virgin Islands

Terminix Companies Sentenced for Applying Restricted-Use Pesticide to Residences in the U.S. Virignin Islands

WASHINGTON (November 20, 2017) - Terminix International Company LP (TERMINIX LP) and U.S. Virgin Islands operation Terminix International USVI LLC (TERMINIX, USVI) were sentenced today for violations of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act in the U.S. Virgin Islands, announced the Department of Justice and the Environmental Protection Agency.

The Virgin Islands pest control company illegally applied fumigants containing methyl bromide in multiple residential locations in the U.S. Virgin Islands, including the condominium resort complex in St. John where a family of four fell seriously ill in March 2015 after the unit below them was fumigated. According to the plea recommendation, TERMINIX LP and TERMINIX, USVI are to pay a total of $10 million in criminal fines, community service, and restitution payments. Under the agreed recommendation, TERMINIX, USVI will pay $4 million in fines and $1 million in restitution to the EPA for response and clean-up costs at the St. John resort. TERMINIX LP will pay a fine of $4 million and will perform community service related to training commercial pesticide applicators in fumigation practices and a separate health services training program.

“The sentences in this case reflect the serious nature of the defendants’ illegal actions and the unacceptable consequences of those actions,” said EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt. “This case should serve as a stark reminder that pesticides must be applied as intended and that those who ignore laws that protect public health will be held accountable by EPA and our law enforcement partners.”

“The tragic incident at issue in this case shows the extreme danger posed by the improper use of toxic pesticides,” said Acting Assistant Attorney General Jeffrey H. Wood of the Justice Department’s Environment and Natural Resources Division. “Businesses using these products must take appropriate cautions to safeguard the public, or else the consequences can be devastating. We trust that the result in this case shows how imperative it is that users of these products take the time to review, understand, and employ appropriate techniques and uses.”

“This case demonstrates how critical it is to comply with environmental laws and regulations,” said Acting United States Attorney Joycelyn Hewlett for the District of the Virgin Islands. “An entire family suffered horrendous and life-altering injuries. We will continue to aggressively enforce environmental laws to help prevent something like this from ever happening again.”

In 1984, the EPA banned the indoor use of methyl bromide products. The few remaining uses are severely restricted and largely limited to commodity applications for quarantine and pre-shipment purposes. Pesticides containing methyl bromide in the U.S. are restricted-use due to their acute toxicity, meaning that they may only be applied by a certified applicator. Health effects of acute exposure to methyl bromide are serious and include central nervous system and respiratory system damage. Pesticides can be very toxic and it is critically important that they be used only as approved by EPA.

According to the information filed in federal court in the U.S. District Court of the Virgin Islands, the defendants knowingly applied restricted-use fumigants at the Sirenusa resort in St. John for the purpose of exterminating household pests on or about October 20, 2014, and on or about March 18, 2015. The companies were also charged with applying the restricted-use pesticide in 12 residential units in St. Croix and one additional unit in St. Thomas between September 2012 and February 2015.

According to the factual basis of the plea agreement, TERMINIX, USVI provided pest control services in the Virgin Islands including fumigation treatments for Powder Post Beetles, a common problem in the islands. These fumigation treatments were referred to as “tape and seal” jobs, meaning that the affected area was to be sealed off from the rest of the structure with plastic sheeting and tape prior to the introduction of the fumigant. Customers were generally told that after a treatment, persons could not enter the building for a two- to three-day period.

On or about March 18, 2015, two employees of TERMINIX, USVI, performed a fumigation pesticide treatment at the lower rental unit of Building J at Sirenusa in St. John. The upper unit in Building J was occupied by a Delaware family of four. Via various means, methyl bromide from the lower unit migrated to the upper unit of Building J, causing serious injury to and hospitalization of the entire family.

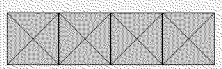
EPA regional staff responded immediately to the incident in St. John, securing the scene, performing testing, and addressing the contamination. Within days, the EPA sent out a pesticide use warning to pesticides applicators in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands, followed by a broader pesticide notice to regulators in all states, the British Virgin Islands, and to other Caribbean and Latin American countries.

After the government began its investigation, TERMINIX LP voluntarily ceased its use of methyl bromide in the U.S. and in U.S. territories. The government has notified the district court that the defendants have made full restitution to the Esmond family. The family is satisfied with the criminal resolution and has asked that their privacy be respected.

The case was investigated by EPA Criminal Investigation Division working cooperatively with the Virgins Islands government and, the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry.

Senior Litigation Counsel Howard P. Stewart of the Department of Justice, Environmental Crimes Section, and Assistant U.S. Attorney Kim L. Chisholm of the District of the Virgin Islands are prosecuting the case with assistance of Patricia Hick, EPA Region II Regional Criminal Enforcement Counsel.

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To: Maisano, Frank[frank.maisano@bracewell.com]
From: Maisano, Frank
Sent: Mon 11/20/2017 6:19:13 PM
Subject: Nov 20 PRG Energy Update: Giving Thanks for Energy, Climate Bonns

Friends,

Happy Thanksgiving Week!!!! So, as usual, you can expect some announcements – perhaps like the RVOs which are due at the end of the month, but always seem to find their way into pre-Thanksgiving roll out.

First off, special congrats to Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy s son Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy

Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy

Breaking this late this morning, the Nebraska Public Service Commission voted 3-2 to approve the Keystone pipeline route through the state to transport up to 830,000 barrels per day of crude from Canada's oil sands and North Dakota's shale fields to oil refineries on the Gulf Coast. It is the last key approval. Head of the Chamber's Global Energy Institute Karen Harbert said: **"the Keystone XL pipeline project has unfortunately become the poster child for the need to reform our permitting process so that we may fully realize North America's energy potential. After years of government delays, the decision as to whether to move forward with the pipeline now rests with the company that will be making the investment."** Connect with Matt Letourneau for more at 202-463-5945.

The Bonn climate conference has ended and one of the few items that garnered attention was the Friday announcement by 19 countries and six states and provinces that they were forming an international alliance to phase out coal-fired power generation by 2030. Key nations in the alliance, such as Canada, Denmark, France, Finland, Italy, Austria, Mexico and the Netherlands, aren't using very much coal anyway. In fact, members account for less than 3% of global coal use as my friends Brad Plumer and Lisa Friedman point out in the New York Times. Notably missing in the groups are some of the world's biggest coal-consuming countries, including Germany (who got significant heat on the topic during Bonn), China, India and the United States.

Perhaps more significant on Friday in Bonn was that Sweden became the 20th country to ratify the Kigali amendment, an agreement to phase down emissions of hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) that will allow the plan to go into effect in 2019. Given this move, we expect to see potential US action on the agreement that was forged in partnership and requires developing/developed country reductions, unlike Paris. With the world using more and more refrigerants, and heating and cooling equipment, the move is expected to hold down climate change by 0.5° C [0.9° F] by 2100. Francis Dietz (703-600-0355) at AHRI can connect you with its President Steve Yurek, who was one of the key stakeholder negotiators.

Finally from Bonn, scientists actually remain skeptical that political leaders can reduce emission increase to 1.5-degree, according to our friend Eric Roston of Bloomberg (who by the way is heading back to the policy team…Welcome Back Eric!)

Despite it being Thanksgiving week, there are a few events on the table including a NAFTA field hearing in Texas today at 10:30e/9:30c featuring Texas trade and industry leaders and the annual release of the American Coal Ash Assn's Coal Ash Production & Use Survey at the National Press Club at 9:30 tomorrow. Finally, tonight at Midnight, the first comment period for the US Trade Representatives public comment period will close. Reply comments are due November 29th and the public hearing will be on December 6th. The Energy Trade Action Coalition, a group of utilities, contractors, retailers and Conservative groups, filed comments to add their voices to the opposition. You can see the ETAC comments here.

Enjoy the week to relax, watch some football and eat some turkey and the fixins' because next week we go right back to the grind with Clean Power Plan hearings in Charleston,WV, a SAFE Oil discussion with former EIA Head Adam Sieminski and much more…. Stay tuned...Call with questions. Best,

Frank Maisano

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THIS WEEK'S LOBBY SHOP

The new episode of *The Lobby Shop* is live on iTunes, SoundCloud, and Google Play Music. This week's episode features my colleagues Scott Segal and Dee Martin, *The Hill's* 2017 Top Lobbyists and explores the world of Washington lobbying, what it takes to be an effective lobbyist, and how they got into the field. Remember our address for listeners to reach out with topic suggestions, feedback, etc. – thelobbyshop@policyres.com.

FRANKLY SPOKEN

"There are many examples of a country switching from being a net energy exporter to a net importer: it is very rare to see the opposite, especially when the country in question is one of the world's largest importers of oil. Yet this is precisely what is happening as a result of the U.S. shale revolution -- both for oil and for natural gas. A remarkable ability to unlock new resources cost-effectively pushes combined United States oil and gas output to a level 50% higher than any other country has ever managed. "

The International Energy Agency (IEA) in its World Energy Outlook.

"We would need an incredibly dramatic reduction in emissions in the very near future. The 1.5-degree target is a little ridiculous and implausible."

Zeke Hausfather, a climate scientist with Berkeley Earth in a Bloomberg story on climate change and science.

IN THE NEWS

House Passes Tax Legislation – The House passed a bill to significantly change taxation, including $1.5 trillion in cuts for individuals and companies. The overhaul, backed by President Trump, heads to the Senate, which is developing a bill that has major differences from the House measure. My colleague Liam Donovan has been in the nitty-gritty details – as well as the politics of it all – and can answer all your questions. Liam.donovan@bracewell.com or (202-828-5847)

Wind Urges Senate to Stand Firm on PTC Deal – Tom Kiernan, CEO of the American Wind Energy Association (AWEA) said the House missed an opportunity to stand up for 60,000 American workers and preserve $50 billion in private infrastructure investment. The tax reform bill passed by the House retroactively changes how businesses can qualify for wind energy's primary investment tools, the wind energy Production Tax Credit (PTC) and Investment Tax Credit (ITC), which are already on a path to phase out by 2019. The House bill undermines wind development by implementing a retroactive change to qualification rules for wind energy tax credits. Because businesses can't go back in time to requalify for the credits after ordering wind turbines and inking construction contracts, tens of thousands of jobs and billions of dollars of investment could be lost, and new business has stalled. The House bill would also terminate an inflation adjustment, significantly cutting the value of the PTC. The Senate tax proposal that passed the Finance committee last night does not retroactively alter the wind energy PTC or ITC, leaving in place the phase out terms set in the bi-partisan PATH Act of 2015, keeping American workers on the job.

AHRI Weighs In – The Air-Conditioning, Heating, and Refrigeration Institute (AHRI), the trade association representing HVACR and water heating manufacturers, applauded House tax package passage. "Our member manufacturers strongly support Congress's efforts to simplify the tax code and reduce rates," said AHRI President & CEO Stephen Yurek. "AHRI applauds the inclusion in H.R. 1 of full and immediate expensing, a permanent reduction in the corporate rate to 20 percent rate, a reduced rate for pass-through entities, repeal of the estate tax, and extension of the tax credit for geothermal HVAC equipment – all of which will serve to make the U.S. a more competitive place to do business," he added. AHRI believes these provisions are all crucial to the continued growth of manufacturing in the United States, and we urge the Senate to follow the lead of the House to enact substantive reforms that will allow our industry and others to continue to innovate and create jobs.

Chamber, Partners Launch Gas Export Infrastructure Initiative – The Chamber's Global Energy Institute hosted the U.S. Trade Development Authority (USTDA), LNG Allies and others at U.S. Chamber Headquarters for the launch of the U.S. Gas Infrastructure Exports Initiative Friday. The goal of the initiative is to connect American companies to new export opportunities, with a particular focus on emerging economies. USTDA acting director Thomas Hardy focused on the goal of using American technology and innovation to advance gas infrastructure in partner countries, while providing new opportunities for U.S. companies. As part of the Initiative, USTDA announced a call for gas-related project proposals for U.S. companies that have identified project sponsors in high growth emerging markets. The Agency will be conducting gas sector reverse trade missions to bring prospective LNG buyers to the U.S. for site visits and meetings. Delegates from Senegal, China and others are already slated to participate. GEI is a natural partner for the Exports Initiative. We are strong advocates for policies and activities that

strengthen America's global energy leadership, which is good for both our economy and for global security. The continued export of American natural gas creates opportunities at home and contributes to stability abroad. For more information on the Initiative, visit www.ustda.gov/program/us-gas-infrastructure-exports-initative

IEA Says Shale Gas Boom Will Last – The International Energy Agency says the shale gas boom has positioned the US to become the world's largest exporter of liquefied natural gas by the middle of the next decade in its 2017 World Energy Outlook. By the late 2020s, the U.S. -- which only lifted its ban on oil exports in 2015 -- will ship more oil to foreign markets than it imports. IEA predicts that US shale oil producers will boost their output by 8 million barrels a day between 2010 and 2025, an increase that "would match the highest sustained period of oil output growth by a single country in the history of oil markets" -- rivaling even the massive increase posted by Saudi Arabia between 1966 and 1981. The expected U.S. surge will account for 80% of the increase in global supply over the time period.

Powell in WSJ Debate: Nuclear is Essential – ClearPath Executive Director Rich Powell argued this week in the *Wall Street Journal* that the future of U.S. nuclear power is not only bright— it's non-negotiable. A robust civilian nuclear sector is mandatory for the U.S. to remain a major geopolitical, economic, military and environmental leader, Rich wrote. After decades of policy neglect, Washington is finally addressing what is both a national and global necessity and a tremendous opportunity. That includes growing bipartisan support to reform new reactor licensing and improve tax incentives for new nuclear facilities, led in Congress by clean-energy advocates as well as national-security and energy-reliability hawks.

Henkel, Novozymes, P&G, Sasol Execs Named to ACI Board of Directors – Four executives from leading companies across the cleaning product supply chain were elected to the American Cleaning Institute (ACI) Board of Directors: Mike Clark, Vice President, Organics – Sasol Performance Chemicals; Charles Crawford, Ph.D., Head of R&D, Laundry and Home Care, North America – Henkel Consumer Goods Inc.; Rene Garza, Vice President, Household Care, Americas – Novozymes and Sundar Raman, Vice President, North America Fabric Care – Procter & Gamble. At its meeting in Washington, D.C., the ACI Board elected the new Directors to fill existing vacancies.

ON THE SCHEDULE THIS WEEK

USTR Comment Deadline on Solar Trade Case – November 20th